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Young golfer Alexander Dommett-Pelaez prepares to compete in California

It's tee time for lad they are calling 'Little Seve'

HE is just six but little Alexander Dommett-Pelaez is preparing to jet across the Atlantic for an international golf competition.

The talented youngster from Tividale has won the UK finals of the Callaway Junior World Championships and is flying to San Diego for the worldwide version of the competition. The championships are the oldest and most prestigious junior golf competition in the world, which has seen the likes of Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson take part.

The youngster recently took part in the championship's national competition at the Three Hammers Golf Complex, Coven, where he battled dozens of juniors to win with an 18-hole round of 67.

Standing at just over 3ft high, the pupil froom Oakham Primary School in Tividale will be packing his bags in July and heading to Californa.

Nickname

Father Andrew Dommett says Alexander was only two when he became interested in the sport and that was when he received the nickname 'Little Seve' after his hero Seve Ballesteros.

"It was four years ago when he watched the Masters with me and he was transfixed by Tiger Woods," says Andrew, 42, who lives with his wife Marta in City Road, Tividale.

Alexander has also qualified for the European Championships, w being held in Scotland in June.

The youngster was upset at the death last week of 54-year-old Ballesteros after a battle with cancer. Now Alexander is hoping to use his skills to raise thousands of pounds for brain cancer sufferers, setting up an internet site asking golf fans to donate money to Cancer Research.

PROPOSAL TO SHAKE-UP EDUCATION SYSTEM

BID TO FREE SCHOOL TO MEET NEEDS

Report by Michael Trott

FINAL preparations are being made to a proposal for a 'Free School' to be set up in Sandwell.

The proposal will be submitted in the next couple of weeks, with Jennifer McNeil, Founder of the Mentoring for Educational Achievement (MEA) group, campaigning hard for what it describes as an innovative project.

Pupils who struggle with mainstream schooling will be encouraged to attend such a school, which began as coalition Government initiative.

Mrs McNeil said "There has been a lot of support from parents and headteachers in the area for a Free School to be setup in the community and our campaign is really starting to gain momentum.

"Some of the young people that we work with are not suited to large mainstream schools and there are limited alternative options, so we are looking to provide that middle ground which is currently missing.

Choice

"The idea is to set up a small secondary mainstream school for people aged 11 to 16, which offers parents and schools more choice in identifying mainstream provision that is more conducive to meeting the needs of the most vulnerable young people in our communities."

Funding for the school will be controlled by central Government.

Mrs McNeil added "What makes the school 'free' is the freedom of the curriculum that we will offer.

"It will be flexible and tailor-made to meet the needs of individual young people, whether they opt for an academic, vocational or alternative curriculum."

At this stage the campaign is looking at possible locations for the school, with Smethwick and Oldbury being prime candidates.

They hope the school could be up and running as early as 2012 .

Penny Barker, a parent and campaigner for the Free School, has witnessed some of the work by MEA and said "MEA offered support to my child when she was struggling within mainstream school.

"Since attending MEA she has grown in confidence and we also have a better parent – child relationship."

More than 200 artillery shells unearthed

MORE than 200 Second World War artillery shells were found buried at a Sandwell industrial estate being cleared for redevelopment.

Around 10 different types of munitions were found under concrete in an area of hardstanding the size of a football pitch at the Eagle Industrial Estate, Bagnall Street, Tipton, over several weeks. The cache included armour-piercing shells and practice rounds, ranging in size from 2lb to 25lbs. The 30-acre site is being cleared to make way for a rubbish treatment plant.The shells were not active.

Councillor Derek Rowley, Sandwell Council cabinet member for safer neighbourhoods, said: "Specialists in explosive ordnance supervised the excavation of the shells by Sandwell's demolition partner, Coleman & Company. Then the army's bomb disposal squad moved in to remove all the shells from the site. They did not have fuses."

Council engineer Christina Wallace said: "We have done some research and found that Second World War tanks and Spitfires were taken to the site – home of the former Cashmore's scrapyard – to be broken up."

A view of some of the shells which were found at the former Cashmore's yard

Morrisons reopen store

A NEW Morrisons supermarket opened its doors in Oldbury this week following the chain's buyout of 16 Netto stores.

The store, in Pottery Road, has been rebranded in the distinctive yellow and green of Morrisons after the takeover announced earlier this year.

The sale came about after Danish firm Dansk sold the Netto chain to Asda last year but competition bosses ruled some stores would have to be sold to rival traders.

Morrisons store manager Chris Musson said: "This new store is an important step in our growth."

All workers at the former Netto store, which is 8,443sq ft, were offered the chance to carry on working at the new Morrisons. Another former Netto store, in West Bromwich, is due to reopen next Monday.

Albion plan to extend Hawthorns

WEST Bromwich Albion bosses have announced plans to turn The Hawthorns into a 30,000-seat stadium as part of a major upgrade.

Chairman Jeremy Peace told supporters at Sunday's end-of-season gala dinner that the Baggies will add an extra 3,500 seats within the next three years.

Plans have not yet been finalised but it is believed it will involve extending the West Stand, formerly known as the Halfords Lane Stand, to expand the ground from its current capacity of around 26,500.

Mr Peace said it would go ahead regardless of which division Albion are in and despite what he described as the apparent financial "insanity" of the move.

He announced The Hawthorns pitch will be levelled out this summer and re-laid with a state-of-the-art new playing surface.

Capacity

"As of today we will be seeing major works at the stadium which will see the levelling of the pitch and the introduction of a Desso surface," Peace told fans at Birmingham's International Convention Centre.

"Our medium-long-term plans include the extension of The Hawthorns to around a 30,000-seat capacity within the next three years regardless of divisional status. Despite the apparent financial insanity of such a move, we believe it is the right thing to do," he said.

Awards – see page 59

Firkins blame bakery closure on rising prices

FIRKINS is closing its West Bromwich bakery with the loss of 40 jobs but the firm's 33 shops will survive.

Drivers and bakery workers at the 141-year-old firm are among those who have been made redundant. The company's shops, including branches in West Bromwich, Tipton and Bearwood, which employ 189 people, will continue to trade as normal.

Newbridge Bakery (Productions) Ltd, which owns the firm, announced the closure of the bakery in Black Lake, which has been put into liquidation.

A statement said: "Unfortunately the bakery was not up to the standards required of a modern bakery and the cost to maintain and improve this site was no longer financially viable. The business was a supplier to the Firkins Bakery Retail Shops. These shops are unaffected by this closure and will be supplied by Oliver Adams Bakery of Northampton."

The business was taken over by Shropshire-based Sarah and Ian Bolderston five years ago. However, it was thrown into administration twice in a period of 12 months, first in November 2008 and again a year later.

Director Ian Bolderston said: "It is a very sad day for the team of people who have worked very hard to try and make this business a success.

"Unfortunately due to rising commodity and energy prices over the last nine months we have been unable to sustain the level of profitability needed to maintain and develop the bakery."

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Two men sought for incidents on trains

Wanted after conductor was spat at

A PERVERT who exposed himself to a train passenger and a fare dodger who spat at a conductor are being sought by police.

Officers have released CCTV footage of two men they want to speak to. The offences happened on trains travelling through Wolverhampton and at Smethwick Galton Bridge station.

Oficers are trying to trace a man who spat in a guard's face. Pc Mark Murphy said it happened just before 5.30pm on March 29 on the Holyhead-Birmingham International service.

The guard was checking tickets and approached a passenger who had boarded at Wolverhampton at around 5.15pm.

Pc Murphy said: "The passenger, who did not have a ticket, spat in the guard's face before getting off the train at Smethwick Galton Bridge. Behaviour such as this towards members of rail staff is totally despicable and will not be tolerated."

Officers are seeking a man who exposed himself on the 10.34am Liverpool to Birmingham New Street service to a 22-year-old woman after the train left Wolverhampton shortly after noon on March 26. He sat down opposite her and exposed himself. The man is thought to be in his late teens, of slim build around 5ft 2in and with olive skin.

Call British Transport Police on 0800 40 50 40 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Police are now trying to trace this man

Community order for assault on neighbour

A SMETHWICK woman who assaulted her neighbour during an ongoing dispute was sentenced to a nine month community order.

Shanjit Sidhu, aged 30 of White Road, assaulted her neighbour Veena Kaur by beating her on November 3 last year. She had denied the offence but was found guilty after trial.

At Warley Magistrates Court Christy Woods, prosecuting, said the altercation started after Sidhu had thrown a piece of glass over the fence into her neighbour's garden.

The court heard an argument took place between the two neighbours, and Sidhu went round to the front of the house.

Mrs Woods said: "The defendant kept shouting and screaming at Veena Kaur."

The court heard Mrs Kaur had to open the front door to let her son in and when she did this Sidhu grabbed hold of her.

Grabbed

She added: "The defendant grabbed hold of her and held her by the wrists, pulling her out of the door."

The court heard eventually Mrs Kaur managed to make it back into the house. She had suffered bruised wrists and four small cuts to her right hand.

Mrs Woods said Mrs Kaur had said she was terrified for her safety whilst Sidhu was living next door.

Magistrates heard that Sidhu is currently subject to a restraining order.

They sentenced Sidhu to a nine month community order, and ordered her to go on an alcohol treatment programme. She must also pay £300 costs and £50 compensation to Mrs Kaur.

Talks to improve services

TALKS on improvements for children's services in Sandwell have been held between council bosses and Government officials.

The meetings were held as the independent review by Professor Eileen Munro on protection services across the country was released in the wake of the death of Baby P. Children's services in Sandwell were told to improve after a damning report by Ofsted in 2009. A surprise inspection in March found improvements.

Council interim chief executive Jan Britton said: "We have met officials from the Department for Education to begin discussing how to remove Sandwell from the special measures imposed in 2009."

Prof Munro's report said child protection services should be freed from central government red tape to allow them to focus on the needs of children.

Casino scheme gets go-ahead

sandwellchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

A £6 million casino development is to go ahead in Sandwell – despite council chiefs being forced to review its licence.

Grosvenor Casinos will build the G Casino, creating 120 jobs, near the Birchley Island off Junction 2 of the M5 in Oldbury.

Objectors from a rival casino and the Casino Operators' Association UK asked Sandwell Council's licensing panel to review the licence, but the objections were dismissed.

Developer St Modwen's £15m plan includes offices and an 80-bed hotel, creating 300 jobs. It is due to open in 2013.

After last week's hearing, Grosvenor spokeswoman Amy Culora said they were thrilled with the outcome and looked forward to moving ahead with the development as soon as possible.

The licence was first granted for Oldbury nearly six years ago, as Grosvenor planned to expand the existing Mecca Bingo. The firm later applied to transfer permission to Birchley Island after hold-ups to that scheme.

The application for review was made by Clockfair Ltd, owners of the rival Shaftesbury Casino, High Street, West Bromwich, and the Casino Operators' Association UK.

Mr Stan Willietts, for Clockfair and the association, claimed the licence being unused for nearly six years was grounds to revoke.

Mr Stephen Walsh QC, for Grosvenor, said the application for review was made by a competitor rather than by an authority such as the police, or by residents.

He said the delay in using the licence came as an extension of the Mecca Bingo, to include a casino, became the subject of a wrangle with planning chiefs after refusal in 2005.

Negotiations

Dudley Council then applied for a super casino at the Merry Hill shopping centre in 2007, which caused the firm to re-consider their move into the Black Country.

Negotiations with the Halesowen Street site owners over the casino lease broke down at the same time, he said.

Mr Walsh QC said: "My client considered the matter properly to use the licence or not but then felt they had to move somewhere else for the scheme to be commercially viable."

To comply with law, the licensing panel first had to decide if a review was necessary, then if it needed to be revoked before a decision could be made on transferring the old Halesowen Street licence.

Revocation was ruled out before the panel decided the licence at Birchley Island posed no risk to under-18s, after members heard of the proposed entry policy, including signing in and photos for visitors.

A blanket ban on casinos was introduced in Sandwell in 2006 over the fear the impact gambling could have.

However, Rank Group, which runs the Grosvenor chain of casinos, was awarded its original licence in 2005 before the ban came into force.

Focus on fashion at school

Stylish – pupil Natasha Garner, aged 16, with Wolverhampton fashion designer Khalisha Hazel

PUPILS at a Tipton school organised a fashion show to help pay for their own prom party.

The event was held at Alexandra High School last week and featured pupils modelling clothes made by local designers.

Dhol drummers, break dancers and henna tattoo artists also provided entertainment during the evening.

Teacher Kayleigh Bird said members of the prom committee had come up with the idea to help pay for the venue and food for the event which will be held in July at Banks's Stadium in Walsall. Among the clothes pupils modelled were some by Wolverhampton fashion designer Khalisha Hazel.

The show at the school in Alexandra Road was attended by parents, staff and pupils.

Millions spent on housing projects

A multi-million pound improvement scheme for homes and businesses across Sandwell has been approved by council bosses.

Regional Housing Board funding is intended for home improvements, vulnerable households and growth projects. Half a million pounds has been put towards housing improvements. This will be used on Carnegie Road, Blackheath, and Melrose Avenue, West Bromwich, plus £229,000 will go on demolishing a dilapidated shop in Hilton Road, Tividale.

Councillor Steve Eling, who signed off funding as borough finance boss, approved £937,000 for housing revamps in the last financial year.

Clearing

Bosses put £100,000 towards clearing the former Millfields Social Club, in West Bromwich, which will be marketed for houses. An extra £160,000 went on Parkside View, 17 flats and 11 houses at the former Bearwood House, Smethwick.

Work to an electricity substation and creating a lift in a family home meant an extra cost on top of grant money towards the £33m Bearwood Road council housing development. A further £100,000 was put towards demolishing shops on Carrington Road, Wednesbury. Clearance of Queslade House, Great Barr, received £115,000 funding.

Decision makers chosen

THE team of councillors to make key decisions at Sandwell Council have been chosen.

Council leader Councillor Darren Cooper said the changes to the cabinet will boost the authority's bid to achieve an "excellent" rating within two years.

"The idea is to freshen up ideas and keep pressure on our officers to continue to deliver frontline services," he said.

Experienced Councillor Dr Ann Jaron is being brought into the cabinet to take charge of adult social care. Cllr Linda Horton is moving from adult social care back to her previous cabinet appointment looking after youth, culture and leisure.

Cllr John Edwards will continue in the short-term as chairman of the scrutiny management board. Cllr Syeda Khatun will become vice-chair of that board. Councillors Pat Davies, Vic Silvester and Elaine Giles will take on roles as heads of various scrutiny panels.

The authority's new lead town members will be Cllr Elaine Costigan for Wednesbury, Cllr Steve Trow for Oldbury, Cllr Jo Hadley for Tipton and Cllr Dave Hosell for West Bromwich.

Councillor Steve Freer is taking over as planning chairman with Councillor Sue Downing as vice-chairman. Councillor Peter Allen is in charge of licensing.

Stroke charity gig

A CHARITY gig fundraiser for stroke victims at a Sandwell Hospital will be held next month.

The Busby Babes will play Bilston's The Robin 2 on June 18 in aid of The Stroke Unit Welfare Fund, which is based at Sandwell Hospital in West Bromwich.

Tickets cost £5 in advance or £6 on the door. For bookings call 01902 401211.

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Suicide verdict on theft shame teenager

A TEENAGER committed suicide because he was being bullied after stealing jewellery, an inquest was told.

Shane Cole, aged 18, was found hanged from a bridge in West Bromwich.

At his inquest on Friday it emerged that he was worried that people were after him in connection with a jewellery theft.

Terrified

Giving evidence at Smethwick Coroner's Office in Crocketts Lane, Shane's mother Alison said: "He was terrified. Everyone knew what he had done and he could not get over the shame.

"But I never thought he would do anything like that in a million years. It was not like Shane."

The hearing heard that Shane, of Thimblemill Road, Smethwick, had gone to stay with his sister Sian Kaur to escape the bullying.

A verdict was recorded that he took his own life.

Probe is launched at school on assault allegation

THE headteacher of a Sandwell secondary school has been suspended along with a senior member of staff.

John Martin, headteacher at Oldbury College of Sport, was suspended on Friday along with a senior colleague, who has not been named.

It is understood to follow a complaint to police about an alleged physical assault on a pupil.

Chairman of governors Sally Harvey has also stepped down while allegations are investigated.

Investigation

Sandwell Council confirmed two members of staff have been suspended pending an investigation but declined to confirm details of the allegations.

Councillor Bob Badham, cabinet member for children and families, said: "Suspension is a neutral act which carries no presumption of wrongdoing.

"The chair of governors has not resigned but has stood down while the investigation is carried out."

"The day-to-day running of the school will not be affected as there is a strong management team in place with three able deputy heads."

The man police want to question

Hunt for 'calm and calculated' robber

A ROBBER caught on CCTV wearing sunglasses and a baseball cap is wanted by police in connection with a terrifying raid at a Bearwood bank.

The lone man walked into the Lloyds TSB on High Street. He went up to the counter and handed staff a note demanding cash and intimated that he had a gun, although no firearm was actually seen.

Detective Constable Dave Hackett, from the Sandwell and Dudley criminal investigation department, said: "We urge anyone who recognises the man pictured to come forward. The offender was calm and calculated when committing this offence. Not once did he actually speak to the cashiers inside the bank.

"However, the staff were understandably concerned for their safety after the note suggested that he may be in possession of a gun. In the end the man escaped with several hundred pounds and no-one was harmed."

The offender, who struck at 1.45pm on Thursday, April 28, is described as an Asian male, of slim build and wearing a baseball cap with 'England' written on it. He was wearing dark trousers and long dark jacket with a zip on the left arm.

Call CID at Harborne police station on 0345 113 5000 or speak to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Specialist help for deaf children axed

Report by Sarah Hazelwood

A SERVICE for 300 deaf children across Sandwell has been slashed despite the Government saying the funds would be protected.

The National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) is furious that Sandwell Council has axed the post of an "essential" specialist teacher for the deaf. But the council said they have been forced to make the decision to overcome a lack of Government funding and believed it to be "the least damaging thing to do".

The NDCS, who released the news as part of their Save Services for Deaf Children Campaign, claimed that despite legal requirements Sandwell Council did not consult the parents on the cuts and had resisted disclosing information.

Crucial

Susan Daniels OBE, Chief Executive of NDCS, said: "We are appalled at these cuts, the support being taken away is not just an optional extra, it is absolutely crucial for deaf children's learning and development.

"Getting information has been extremely difficult and we are calling on the Secretary of State to launch an investigation to explain why frontline services are being cut from a budget he said would be protected."

Figures have revealed 63 per cent of deaf children are failing to achieve five GCSE grades at C and above, including English and Maths, suggesting the need for specialist help.

Cabinet member for children and families Councillor Bob Badham said: "We have been forced to make cuts across the board because of the squeeze on our funding by the Government. We are committed to protecting the frontline but we have to balance competing interests... and accept the reality of the financial situation.

"Sandwell Council continues to maintain a team of specialist teachers to support deaf children in schools and other settings but we have cut one specialist teacher post because we judged it to be the least damaging thing to do.

"We have been transparent over our decisions and have repeatedly provided the NDCS with information when it has been asked for."

National charity Deafness Research UK said the cut would have a significant and long-term impact upon deaf children and their families.

Vivienne Michael, Chief Executive officer at Deafness Research UK, said: "Profoundly deaf children face immense hurdles communicating effectively in a hearing world and without the right support their education and employment prospects will suffer."

Concerned parents can contact the NDCS free helpline on 0808 800 8880 or e-mail helpline@ndcs.org.uk or visit www.ndcs.org.uk/save website.

Schools and sport are lottery winners

SCHOOLS and a community group in Sandwell have received thousands of pounds of lottery funding.

The Big Lottery Fund has issued 79 projects in the West Midlands Awards for All grants totalling £623,546.

In Sandwell, the Phoenix Collegiate Academy, which has campuses in Wednesbury and West Bromwich, is to get £2,700 to run after-school cooking and healthy eating sessions. The idea being to encourage youngsters to eat more healthily and increase their cooking skills.

Head of design technology Baljeet Randhawa said today: "We are very, very pleased. It's something that will get everyone cooking together. We are delighted, over the moon."

Brickhouse Primary School in Dudhill Road, Rowley Regis, has been boosted by £9,975 to develop a piece of land into a community landscape.

Sandwell sports community group Al-Nisaa will use £9,900 to run a series of health, arts and crafts activities to bring tog-ether isolated women from different cultural backgro-unds to learn new skills and socialise.

John Taylor, Big Lottery Fund Head of West Midlands region, said: "It will enable 79 groups to make a real difference in improving the well-being of people."

Benefit

The Awards for All programme offers grants of between £300 and £10,000 to social and environmental projects that will benefit local communities.

Voluntary and community groups, schools, health organisations and parish and town councils can all apply. For details visit www. awardsforall.org.uk or call 08454 102030.

Albion fan's California dream

Baggies fan Chris Davis is looking forward to seeing his team play 20 minutes from his home in California

WEST Bromwich Albion fan Chris Davis couldn't believe his luck when the Baggies announced the destination of their pre-season tour – 20 minutes from his home in California.

The 49-year-old, who moved to the USA in 1987, is usually reduced to watching his team on television but will have the chance to see them play live in July.

Roy Hodgson's men will take on San Jose Earthquakes on July 12 as part of their pre-season programme – and Chris will be there to watch them.

Mr Davis, who drives a car with a registration plate WBA FAN, said: "It is fantastic that Baggies are coming to the States and I couldn't believe it when I realised where they are going to be training.

"I get the mickey taken out of me by people over here when they ask which soccer team I support because they have only heard of teams like Manchester United and Liverpool.

"Now they will have the chance to see them in the flesh."

Mr Davis lives in a town of 180,000 people called Thousand Oaks, a 20-minute drive from Oxnard College where Baggies will be training.

He said that he is planning to take his sons Andrew, 18, and Graeme, 15, to watch the team train and play a match in San Jose.

Stourbridge-born Mr Davis became a Baggies fan in his youth, when he attended Newfield Park Middle School and Earls High School, Halesowen.

He later studied electrical engineering at what was then Brighton Polytechnic before moving to California for work in 1987 where he met and married his wife Claire.

Thief told to pay £1 back on debt of £100,000

A MOTHER who stole more than £112,000 from her Wednesbury employers has been told to pay back just £1 of the remaining debt of over £100,000.

Karen Stephens, aged 36, stole over five months at International Tube and Fittings, Wednesbury, where she was an accountant.

Stephens, who was planning to pay off her former partner's drug debts so she could start a new life in Jamaica, admitted eight charges of theft totalling £112,574.

In January she was jailed for 23 months but was brought to Wolverhampton Crown Court for a Proceeds of Crime hearing, when it was revealed outstanding monies were now £101,574, she having repaid £11,000.

Judge Robin Onions said she had no assets and made a confiscation order for £1.

He told Stephens, now of Hitchin, Hertfordshire, it must be paid immediately or she would get a further five days jail.

Stephens admitted thefts on the basis she took cash due to threats made to her ex-partner on his drug debts.

She worked for the firm in Leabrook Road, on the GWS Industrial Estate, as an accounts manager and company secretary.

Discrepancies

When a qualified accountant was appointed, she failed to turn up for work. The new accountant found discrepancies with cheques filled in by Stephens being made payable to herself and cash transferred to her account.

Stephens left the country but was arrested at Gatwick Airport when she left a flight from Jamaica.

Young father is facing jail

A 19-year-old father who repeatedly failed to attend court and pleaded guilty to theft and burglary can expect a custodial sentence, a judge said.

David Turnbull, of Cophall Street, Tipton, is now being held in custody and appeared at Warley Magistrates Courtafter failing to attend court.

Prosecutor Maxine Jarrousse said: "On February 5 Mr Turnbull stole a drain cover valued at £300. In the early hours of November 3 last year, Mr Turnbull was one of three defendants who went to Flower Connection on Owen Street where a crowbar has been used to force the door open."

Turnbull pleaded guilty to both charges of theft and burglary. He pleaded guilty to failing to surrender to the court.

District Judge Graham Wilkinson told Turnbull he would remain in custody and warned him to expect a custodial sentence due to previous convictions.

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Volunteers spring into action

MORE than 1,300 volunteers have already signed up to take part in this year's Big Spring Clean campaign in Sandwell.

The campaign will see residents, schools and community groups clean up the borough with litter picks, graffiti removal and painting. It is being organised by the council, Serco and Tipton Litterwatch and will run until the end of July.

The campaign is planning its biggest clean-up effort ever and is encouraging volunteers to get involved. Councillor Derek Rowley, cabinet member for neighbourhoods, said: "I would like to thank everyone who has volunteered to take part in this year's Big Spring Clean so far. I would encourage anyone else who wants to take part to contact us.

"The award-winning Big Spring Clean has become a bit of an institution in Sandwell.

"The reason the campaign manages to successfully recruit more and more volunteers each year is because people see the visible difference it makes to where they live, work and study."

For more information email bigspringclean.sandwell@serco.com.

Call for more gates

CALLS have been made for security gates to be installed in alleys in Oldbury after a series of problems with drug-taking, rubbish dumping and vandalism.

For years residents in Kings Way and Apsley Road say they have had to live with anti-social behaviour on land at the back of their houses.

Recently four mattresses and 50 old television sets were dumped.

Graffiti has to be cleaned off residents' garages frequently and fences have been broken.

Sandwell Council has spent £2,500 fitting lockable gates to secure the alleys from Apsley Road and a petition of more than 60 names asks for them to be introduced at the Kings Way end.

Councillor Derek Rowley, Sandwell Council's neighbourhoods chief, said each town had already been allocated £30,000 to make improvements such as this.

Uniform grant to be slashed

A GRANT that has been offered for more than 20 years to help parents in Sandwell pay for school uniforms is set to be cut.

In the past, parents on benefits with children starting secondary school in the borough have been able to apply for a voucher worth £45. Parents of children starting reception and parents of children already at secondary school could also apply for vouchers, worth £20 and £25. But now there is likely to be a significant reduction as the council makes savings.

Schools boss Councillor Bob Badham said they had originally considered axing the grant completely but now it looked like it would be reduced.

He said: "As part of the process of reviewing the effects of the draconian cuts the Government has imposed on us, I have taken the opportunity to look at how we can ease the hardship that some families might face over school uniforms.

"It should be realised that the council has been forced to make more than £30 million cuts this year and all services, including school uniform grants, have been under scrutiny.

Families

"I have decided that we need to keep helping the more needy families in the community so I have asked officers to draw up a report on how this grant can be kept, albeit in a more modified form."

Sandwell Council is one of the few authorities to offer the grant. Since 2004 Dudley Council has £25,000 set aside for secondary schools which make their own decisions on issuing uniform grants. Wolverhampton scrapped its uniform grant some 20 years ago. Walsall Council does not provide a uniform grant.

Borough to get 'slop buckets' in autumn

sandwellchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

CONTROVERSIAL 'slop buckets' will be introduced to 128,000 households in Sandwell from September – two months later than planned.

A food recycling service which will see householders keep kitchen slops in the home, was due to roll out in the borough in July. However Serco, responsible for waste collections in the borough, has decided to put back the date – fearing people on holiday will miss out on delivery of their bins.

Under the plans householders will have to sort rubbish four ways – garden waste, dry recycling, food waste and rubbish.

Two buckets will be given to each home, a five-litre container for kitchen scraps and a 25-litre bin for the garden, to store contents of the kitchen buckets.

Similar containers sparked controversy when introduced in neighbour borough, Wolverhampton, where unimpressed residents dubbed them "slop buckets".

Better

Serco spokeswoman Sofia Constantinou said: "The scheme will be rolled out across Sandwell from September to December. We thought this would be a better time as fewer people would be away on holiday."

Similar schemes elsewhere have led to complaints about food smells as well as vermin concerns. Last month it was revealed that Wolverhampton Council has spent almost £70,000 on promoting recycling food waste – despite this, hundreds of householders returned the "food caddies" after 5,000 refused to take the slop buckets in the first place.

The city council, however, said it was pleased that 95 per cent of homes had taken up the scheme.

Although the majority of Wolverhampton residents have accepted the buckets, many are putting them to more novel uses, such as for washing their cars or storing cleaning products.

Former nursery site is being sold off

HOUSES may be built on the site of a former Black Country nursery school after its demolition.

The site of the bulldozed Timbertrees Nursery, in Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath, will go under the hammer later this month.

It has stood empty for nearly four years after pupils moved to Valley Road.

Villa

Bulldozers started demolition last month, ahead of the land going up for auction in Birmingham today (Thursday). It covers jusst under half an acre and is being marketed by Bigwood Chartered Surveyors, which describes the site as having "potential for residential development".

The land will go under the hammer in the Holte Suite at Villa Park at 11am.

Suicide after a family fall out

AN EDLERLY man who had fallen out with family in India following a dispute over a will hanged himself at his Sandwell home, an inquest heard.

Kartar Singh, 74, was found by wife Kulwant at their home in Keanscott Drive, Oldbury, in February.

Mr Singh's son Paramjit told Smethwick Coroner's Court his father was depressed.

Declaring a verdict of suicide, Sandwell coroner Robin Balmain said it was "extraordinarily sad".

Call for new GP centres

RESIDENTS and traders are calling for a new health centre to be built for Cradley Heath and Old Hill.

The campaign comes as plans for two new GP surgeries in Great Bridge and Oldbury, worth £10.6 million in total, are submitted.

Travel

Re-elected ward Councillor Ann Shackleton, who is spearheading the campaign, said people in the area should not be expected to travel to Langley for medical advice and called for health bosses to consider a new facility in the area.

Charity launches travel agency for the disabled

THE sky's the limit for disabled people living in Sandwell after a local charity launched a unique new social enterprise.

IQS Travel is the brainchild of Sandwell charity Ideal For All in a bid to provide individual requirements to those who have specific needs when going on holiday.

Ideal For All is a non-profit organisation run by disabled people from the borough and is fronted by patron 'Blind Dave' Healey.

The marathon-running fundraiser cut the ribbon at the official Hawaiian themed opening on May 10, at the travel agents based within Ideal for All's independent living centre, on Oldbury Road, Smethwick.

Carol Goff, chairperson of Ideal For All, said: "We have opened IQS Travel because we want to make a difference for the people who find it hard to book their holidays due to an illness, disability or limited mobility.

"We have dedicated and experienced advisors who have the knowledge to go the extra mile to ensure that their holiday experience is as stress free as possible."

Customers will also make a difference when booking their holiday with IQS travel agency with all profits set to be reinvested in Sandwell to benefit disadvantaged people.

For more information contact Vicki Phipps or Jade Gull on (0121) 558 5555.

Meet the midnight ramblers

Back, from left, are walkers Pauline Walker-Shelton, Sarah Lord, Sue Baker, and Sue Stevens with front, from left, Venetia Hardiman and Jo Robb

STAFF at a Sandwell training company aim to raise more than £1,000 for a hospice when they take part in a midnight walk.

Nine female employees at the Black Country Training Group in Taylors Lane, Oldbury, have signed up for the Stourbridge-based Mary Stevens Hospice annual fundraiser and are encouraging other women to take part.

The Black Country Training Group team, headed by Jo Robb, are being joined by three other women for the walk on Saturday. Mrs Robb said: "Every year BCTG staff undertake a sponsored walk to raise money for charity. This year we decided to join the Midnight Walk and raise money for a worthwhile charity."

The walkers are Pauline Walker-Shelton, Sarah Lord Sue Baker, Sue Stevens,Venetia Hardiman, Jo Robb, Emma Blake, Emma McTaggart, Jackie Plass, Louise Tomkins, Yupa Beastall and Lisa Jewell.

Hospice bosses hope their Midnight Walk fundraiser will help rake in thousands to help terminally ill patients.

For more details call 01384 377778, email info@mshfundraising.co.uk or visit the website at: www.marystevenshospice.co.uk

Apprenticeships for school leavers

MORE than 30 new apprenticeships are available at Sandwell College for school leavers this year.

Dozens of employers have recently contacted the college's business development unit to offer 33 placements on customer services and business administration apprenticeship schemes.

Sandwell College business advisor Helen Bosworth said: "We have all sorts of vacancies available as a result of our successful drive to get more employers on board.

"We need high quality apprentices to fill these posts, so students leaving school this summer should get in touch with us now to secure their place before the rush starts."

Prospective applicants should ideally have or be expecting to achieve a minimum of five GCSEs at grade C or above.

Shrew in the park

AN OPEN air production of The Taming of the Shrew will be performed in Haden Hill Park, Cradley's Heath, next month.

Audiences will be transported to the colourful Italian world of sunny Padua for the Shakespearian comedy. The play, performed by Gloucestershire's Festival Theatre Players, has been organised by Sandwell Council and the Friends' of Haden Hill Estate and marks the company's fourth annual visit.

The show will be on June 12 at 7pm. Tickets are £13 in advance and £14 on the night but audiences are warned there will be no refunds in the event of cancellation due to bad weather.

Refreshments will be available and those attending are invited to take their own chairs and picnics. Call 01384 569444.

Pub facing demolition

A PUB that has stood in Wednesbury for 100 years could be demolished to make way for homes. The Cottage Inn in Wood Green Road has been empty for 18 months.

Sandwell Council has given permission for the land to be developed as housing and it is expected that flats will now be built on the site. Owner Gurt Sandhu said that reopening the pub was no longer viable.

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Centro say passengers happy with the Metro

PASSENGERS using the Midland Metro say they are pleased with the service according to a survey from transport authority Centro.

The tram line, which connects Birmingham to Wolv-erhampton via Wednesbury and West Bromwich, scored at least 80 per cent in the four categories related to passenger service in the annual customer satisfaction survey.

The survey found 88 per cent of the 546 people interviewed were happy with the speed and frequency of the Metro and 87 per cent satisfied that services run on time. A further 81 per cent said they were pleased with the ease of connections from the Metro to other bus and train services.

Commute

Centro chairman Councillor Angus Adams said: "The Metro is an important part of the public transport network in the West Midlands and we are delighted that passengers are pleased with the service.

"Many people use trams as part of their daily commute, to get to events or to visit family and we are pleased that passengers see it as a mode of transport they can rely on."

Work is currently ongoing to extend the Metro, which will see trams run along the streets of Birmingham city centre and connect the city's three major rail stations, New Street, Moor Street and Snow Hill.

South Staffs Water backing Blind Dave's new challenge

A BLACK Country-based utilities company has offered thousands of pounds of sponsorship to West Bromwich marathon runner 'Blind' Dave Heeley.

Walsall-based South Staffordshire Water has pledged £2,000, with sister company Aqua Direct set to provide mineral water throughout Dave's "Top2Toe" challenge, which will see the father-of-three run and cycle from John O'Groats to Lands End. The event will start on August 10 and will last 10 days, with the 52-year-old of Oak Road starting each day by running a marathon, before taking to a tandem to complete another 80 miles.

Proud

Adrian Page, group finance director at South Staffordshire Plc said the company was delighted to get involved.

He said: "We are so proud of Dave's amazing achievements, and wanted to support him as he is local to the area and taking on such an ambitious challenge. As well as the financial contribution, we will also be providing 1,000 bottles of mineral water for Dave to use in his training and during the challenge."

To sponsor Dave visit www.blindaveheeley.co.uk/top2toe

Raiders steal children's play equipment

PLAY equipment set to be erected at a Sandwell beauty spot as part of a new adventure playground has been stolen.

Thieves raided a lock-up unit at Sandwell Valley Farm in West Bromwich on Sunday, May 8, and stole a wooden bumble bee spring seesaw and a wooden donkey. Both are made from hand-carved wood and imported from Germany.

Together with damage caused to the site, the cost of the theft is in the region of £5,000.

Cherie O'Sullivan, events and projects officer at Sandwell Council, said: "They have been there for a couple of months and workmen were due to start on May 23. They had been delivered from Germany. They were in the paddock where the adventure playground is going to be, locked and fenced off. However, they smashed through the fencing and smashed the lock off.

"We are absolutely gutted, we cannot believe that someone would take away parts of a new facility that we are trying to put in to encourage more children to use the site."

Football boss stole from murder victim

THE CHAIRMAN of Tipton Town Football Club has admitted pocketing more than £276,000 from the life insurance and pension policies of a murdered father.

Bill Williams betrayed the family of company director Andrew Diack, just days after he was stabbed to death in a Wolverhampton pub.

Williams listed himself as an executor of a life insurance and pension policy he helped to set up for Mr Diack while working as his accountant. He then went on to clean out the policies, worth more than £276,600, after the murder.

Williams, of Chester Road, West Bromwich, appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week where he admitted two counts of fraud.

Devastated relatives of Mr Diack, who co-owned Featherstone firm Spray Tanker Services, said they had never been able to properly grieve while the fraud investigation was ongoing.

The victim;s partner Rachel Evans, aged 30, was in court to see Williams admit the charges on Thursday.

She said: "He's admitted the crime but he's never once said sorry. Even today, he couldn't look us in the eye. He kept his head down which tells you a lot about the type of person he is.

"In a way, we are pleased that he has pleaded guilty but on the other hand we know he has only done that so he will get a lesser sentence.

"I'm just happy it is all coming to an end. This has been hanging over us two-and-a-half years. When he is sentenced it will finally be finished so we can move on with our lives and forget everything that has gone on."

In court it was revealed that it was not the first time Williams has committed fraud offences. He was jailed for three years on two separate occasions in 1986 and again in 1996 for committing frauds totalling more than £200,000. In one case, he took £100,000 from an Anglican clergyman.

He used the money to employ semi-professional footballers for Harrisons FC of Great Wyrley, a team he used to manage.

Mr Diack, aged 29, of Stafford Road, Fordhouses, Wolverhampton, died after a friend's birthday celebration at the Flying Dutchman pub in Merry Hill, Wolverhampton, in February 2009.

Knifed

He was stabbed to death by teenager Michael Brown, who had gone out for the night armed with a butterfly knife.

Brown hunted down his victim in the darkened pub using a mobile phone as a torch before he knifed Mr Diack once through the heart.

Brown, aged 19, of Langley Road, Merry Hill, was jailed for life in February last year with a minimum of 16 years for stabbing Mr Diack,.

Mr Diack's daughter, Megan, now two, was born days after the killing.

Earlier this season, Midland Alliance football club Tipton Town won a place in the first round of the FA Cup for the first time, banking in the region of £20,000.

In the dock Williams spoke only to plead guilty to the two charges. He was given unconditional bail by Judge Helen Hughes and will be sentenced on June 6.

Bill Williams outside Wolverhampton Crown Court last week

Crooked accountant preyed on grieving pregnant partner

WHEN Bill Williams visited Rachel Evans, the devastated partner of murder victim Andrew Diack, she thought she he had the family's best interests at heart.

The football club chairman had worked as an accountant for the company which Mr Diack part-owned.

But in the months that followed, the sinister reason for Williams arriving at the family home on that day in February 2009 became clear.

He had not been there to offer help and support but to get his hands on documents that would net him an insurance payout from a policy he had helped to set up.

As well as coming to terms with the violent death of her partner at the hands of a knifeman, Miss Evans has now had to deal with the knowledge that the man she once trusted went on to steal more than £276,000 from her dead partner.

Miss Evans was days away from giving birth to the couple's first child when Williams visited her home.

She said: "Bill was really nice when he came to the house, telling me not to worry about a thing and that he would sort out all the financial arrangements.

"I was heavily pregnant with Megan so it was a weight off my mind. He collected a load of documents and that was it. He said things like the mortgage or any bills I had would be taken care of by him and that I didn't have to worry about any of it."

As she concentrated on looking after newborn baby Megan and her young son Reegan, Williams was setting in motion plans to pocket life insurance and pension policies worth more than £276,000, which he administered.

Williams even turned up at Mr Diack's funeral and made a personal donation of £100 to the family, using a cheque that subsequently bounced.

Within a couple of months, Miss Evans started to receive notices that bills were not being paid so sought the advice of a solicitor. In May 2009 Miss Evans called in the police, who launched an investigation.

Victim – Andrew Diack with his girlfriend Rachel Evans

Thieves target hospitals

THIEVES risked causing delays in patients' treatment when they stole thousands of pounds worth of equipment, smashed windows and stole lead from the roofs of hospitals in Sandwell and Birmingham.

A total of £6,705 worth of equipment has been stolen from buildings run by Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust in the last two years.

Six separate burglaries accounted for almost two thirds of the stolen property and they were thought to have been committed by the same person in a three-month crime spree at City Hospital.

Metal thieves made off with a hot water boiler from Sandwell Hospital last November and ripped lead off Rowley Regis Hospital roof in March.

Thieves left crow bar marks on a door at City Hospital in attempted thefts in December and February last year.

The hospitals have also suffered vandal attacjs with a smashed glass door and window at Sandwell Hospital and a hole kicked in a plasterboard wall in accident and emergency.

The information was revealed after a request by The Chronicle's sister newspaper the Express & Star under the Freedom of Information Act.

Health bosses revealed the serial burglar at City Hospital stole two plasma screen TVs in January. In February two notebook computers, two laptops and two LCD monitors were stolen in three separate raids and two more PCs and two monitors were taken in March. In total £4,000 worth of equipment was taken.

Courts

Health chiefs said a man was due to be brought before the courts.

Security Adviser Peter Finch, for the trust which runs Sandwell, City and Rowley Regis Hospitals, said thieves had risked delays in treatment for patients.

He said: "Property stolen or damaged has to be replaced by the taxpayer and this can lead to delays in treatment."

Mr Finch added: "To counter the risk of theft, the trust has in place teams of well-trained security officers. In addition, there is a range of supporting measures – CCTV systems, building alarms, access controls to wards and other areas and locks on doors – to deter and prevent theft."

Lorry firm profits up

PROFITS are on the up at West Bromwich lorry dealer Keltruck, despite a fall in sales over the last year.

Figures released by the company last week show sales of £71.3 million for 2010, down from £83.7m the year before. But pre-tax profits more than doubled, up to £2.69m from £1.07m in 2009.

The privately-owned business, founded and chaired by Chris Kelly, is the biggest independent dealer in new and used Scania vehicles in the UK with 21 dealerships across the Midlands and Wales.

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Bullet holes at toilet block tell grim story

Son Paul, 64, and George Harris, 91, point to the bullet holes in Windmill Lane

The old toilet block in Smethwick which still bears the scars of war

It was the moment that war came to a Black Country street
NAOMI DUNNING reports

THEY look like non-descript chips in a wall but they tell an incredible wartime story of the night a German bomber dived on a Black Country town and riddled it with machine gun fire.

It is thought the bomber was on its way to a raid during the early part of the Second World War when it started shooting at a group of people in Windmill Lane, Smethwick, who were making their way to an air raid shelter.

One young man, Norman Steele, was killed.

A keen amateur historian delving into the story and hoping to find out more about that fateful day, has told how a toilet block in the town still has bullet holes from the attack.

Former Smethwick resident Paul Harris, who now lives in Halesowen, remembers being taken by his father, George Harris now aged 91, to see the bullet holes in Windmill Lane.

Mr Harris, aged 64, said: "I used to live in Smethwick and my father still does. Every time we would walk past he would tell me what he knew about the day and about his time during the war.

"As I understand it the chaps were coming from the Seven Stars pub and heading towards the shelter. It was a 19-year-old who was killed, he just didn't quite make it to the shelter in time.

"It was only last week when I drove past and I had a look to see if the bullet holes were still there. I was astounded they were still clearly visible.

"These men it seems were making their way to safety and one of them was gunned down in the process. People must remember this event and the bullet holes are a clear reminder.

Chilling

"I would encourage people to go and have a look, it is a chilling reminder of what my parents generation went through."

It is not known exactly which year the raid took place. Documents published by Smethwick Local History Society, describe the raid: "From the Seven Stars public house, three young men ran for shelter into the Windmill Lane public toilets. Norman Steele failed to make it and died under a hail of machine-gun fire from one of the German bombers."

Sandwell Councillor Mahboob Hussain said the toilet blocks had been closed for 20 years.

"The block and the bullet holes may well be there for some time as there are currently no plans to do anything with it," he added.

Mr Harris, of Blagdon Road, whose father served in Egypt with the RAF during the war, was prompted to revisit the story after reading Express & Star columnist Peter Rhodes discussing a book due to be published in Germany detailing chilling confessions of German prisoners of war who said they enjoyed massacring innocent civilians.

In 1999 Mr Rhodes interviewed playwright Stephen MacDonald whose show, Not About Heroes, was staged at Stratford. Mr McDonald remembered as a child warplanes strafing Birmingham's Calthorpe Park.

The German bomber involved in the Smethwick attack was likely to have been a Heinkel 111 or a Dornier 17, the primary Luftwaffe bombers.

Second World War German Bomber, a Luftwaffe Heinkel 111; Right: George Harris in uniform, aged 21

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It's a fine show and audiences were crying out for more Oliver!

Terry Gormley as Fagin, Sarah Moors as Nancy, Steve Coussens as Bill Sykes, Maison Kelley, 14, as The Artful Dodger, Ben Evans, nine, as Oliver, and Buster as Bullseye

WEST Bromwich Opera Society (WBOS) can be rightly proud of their production of Lionel Bart's classic musical Oliver!

The work they put into this show was obvious right from curtain up at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre last week, *writes Danny Farragher*.

The enthusiasm of the massive cast was infectious and the young dancers who did the opening Food Glorious Food set the pace for routines executed splendidly.

Ben Evans was wonderfully innocent and sweet as Oliver and has a voice which belies his small stature. The voices of all the main characters were strong, worthy of special mention was Sarah Moors as the luckless Nancy.

Good use of the sets with remarkable and colourful costumes combined to tell this Dickens' tale of rags to riches as young Oliver is caught up with a gang of London criminals, led by old rogue Fagin played by Terry Gormley. He struggled to suppress his Midlands accent but this did not detract from his stage antics and renditions of the favourites You've Got To Pick A Pocket and Reviewing The Situation.

The cast brought real gusto to well-known songs such as Consider Yourself, Oom Pah Pah and Who Will Buy and made this a spectacle well worth watching.

It's A Fine Life for the West Bromwich Operatic Society's performance of Oliver! at the Grand Theatre

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Mind supporters get ready for their five kilometre challenge at the weekend

Mind your feet

WALKERS, runners and joggers are being invited to put their best foot forward for this year's Sandwell Leisure Trust 5km challenge.

The Move for Mind event which raises money for the Sandwell Mind charity will take place at Sandwell Valley Park, on Saturday at 10.30am.

Marking national Mind week the free charity trek aims to raise awareness of mental health and encourages all entrants to raise as much sponsorship as possible. All participants who complete the course will receive a goody bag and free entry into Sandwell Valley Park Farm.

To enter contact Sandwell Mind on (0121) 543 3930 or e-mail vina_fatania@sandwell.gov.uk from Sandwell Leisure Trust for an application form.

Police seek bus robbery youths

THREE youths seen in these images are being sought by police in connection with a robbery on a bus in Warley.

Police released the pictures, which were captured on board a number nine bus in Warley. Two of the youths wanted for questioning were on the upper deck of the bus as it travelled along Hagley Road West towards Birmingham city centre. They demanded cash and mobile phones from two teenagers at about 7.15pm on February 24. The victims handed over a Samsung mobile phone and an iPod touch.

Detective Constable Matthew Owen, of Sandwell CID, said: "The offenders forced these two lads to hand over their personal items, although no weapons were used or seen. One of the boys was kicked in the leg.

"The offenders got on the bus at Halesowen bus station, committed the robbery and then got off the bus on the Wolverhampton Road.

"We urge anyone with information, or who recognises those pictured, to come forward and speak to the investigation team."

Anyone with information should call police on 0345 113 5000 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

CCTV images of the passengers police want to talk to

Hospital food award

SANDWELL Hospital's Hallam Restaurant has achieved a gold award for good hygiene for the second year running.

The canteen, which serves freshly made meals between 7.30am and 7pm every day, was awarded the gold standard by Sandwell Council's Environment Health and Trading standards.

To achieve the gold rating inspectors look for exceptionally high standards of cleanliness and hygiene, how food is stored, cooked and kept, and the personal hygiene of all staff members who work in the canteen.

Credit

Ilona Petersen, catering manager at Sandwell Hospital, said: "This is a great achievement and a credit to how hard the staff work to maintain high standards.

"All the team take pride and responsibility to ensure high levels of cleanliness and hygiene are met.

"It is thanks to this effort that the Hallam Restaurant achieved gold in this year's inspection."

The successful catering team are pictured (from left): Gloria Evans, catering supervisor; Ilona Petersen, catering manager; catering assistants Julia Grainger and Carol Noakes; chef Shaun Cooke; and catering assistants Cheryl Jones and Patricia Gumbley

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Building site dig uncovers past

Examples of the pottery artefacts found at the West Bromwich site

Dr Graham Eyre-Morgan at the site where a chapel was found

A TEAM of archaeologists have found an early chapel and graveyard at a West Bromwich development.

The archaeologists, part of Sandwell Council's Historic Environment Team, found the chapel at the All Saints office development on Sandwell Road.

It is the latest fascinating discovery made by the team.

Borough archaeologist Dr Graham Eyre-Morgan said a Baptist Sunday school was known to have been on the site in 1796. It was later developed into a Providence Chapel in 1810 and a graveyard was attached in 1817. Excavations this year have revealed the chapel went through several phases.

The earliest phase had a compressed earthen floor which later was covered with wooden boards. Dr Eyre-Morgan said: "In addition to a complete baptismal chamber, we discovered foundation walls and some tiled floors."

The archaeologists are excavating the graveyard on site. The remains will be scientifically researched and then reburied in an appropriate place, before the land is covered over for development.

This discovery is just one of many in recent years in the borough as the team unearths Sandwell's hidden past.

Dr Eyre-Morgan said: "Recent excavations, which have come as a result of the planning process, have revealed a wealth of remains relating to medieval and post medieval archaeology across the borough."

Between 2004 and 2008 archaeologists worked on the site of a late medieval forge in Wednesbury and unearthed evidence of more than 500 years of continuous industrial development. Underneath the 19th, 18th, and 17th century remains of a brick built forge, known as Willets Forge, archaeologists discovered the remains of a medieval timber-built forging mill.

"The quality and extent of the timber remains is exceptional with four possibly five almost complete wooden built wheel races discovered, together with an almost complete wheel pit."

In 2007, when plans were submitted for the Morrisons supermarket in Wednesbury, archaeologists excavated the site and found evidence of the pottery industry. And before developers moved in to build sheltered housing on St Mary's Road, Wednesbury, archaeologists found evidence of an early Anglo Saxon settlement and pottery from around the time of the Norman conquest.

"If the pottery represents the period, then we may well be looking at a large fortified Anglo Saxon settlement" said Dr Eyre-Morgan.

Fort

On Lower High Street in Wednesbury the remains of a medieval settlement and the early pottery industry was been discovered, including numerous pieces of pottery. Mr Eyre-Morgan says this could mean Wednesbury began as an Iron Age hill fort.

In 2010 an evaluation of Shrubbery Avenue in Tipton revealed part of the foundations of the former Tipton Green Hall. Archaeologists made the exciting and rare discovery of a knucklebone floor when they excavated Hall Green, in Stone Cross earlier this year. They were in fashion for a comparatively short period of the late 17th century and 18th century.

Dr Eyre-Morgan added: "We have major evaluations and excavations in the pipeline, work is planned for Friar Park, the Ruck of Stones, Smethwick, the Manor House, West Bromwich and for Sandwell Valley this year."

Dr Eyre-Morgan digs into the past

Design from history – a piece of decorated medieval pottery found in Sandwell

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Teresa Harmison
the nursery manager and her team of qualified staff look forward to welcoming you to their open day on Tuesday 31st May.

Teresa said "We want parents to see for themselves what a fun, friendly and welcoming safe environment we offer at Kiddies World".
The main aim of the nursery is that the children enjoy the learning journey through fun and stimulating activities and that progress is monitored and recorded to give feedback to parents.
There is a parent and staff committee that have regular meetings. This is a great way for progression and any concerns to be discussed.
The nursery has a little Dots group for 0 – 2 years, Little Stars for 2 – 3 years and Little Einsteins for 3 – 5 years.
There is also an after schools club and holiday club.
Kiddies World also organise day trips where parents are always welcome to come along.

To find out more about the nursery come along to the open day or contact Teresa or Julie on 0121 544 3347

staff from left to right. Amy Burford. Kimberley Morgan. Teresa Harmison. Tasleem Munir . Julie Branningan and Pauline Jones.

staff play puppet theatre with some of the children at the nursery.

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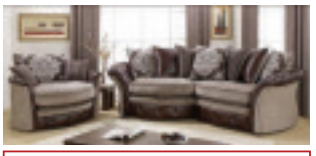

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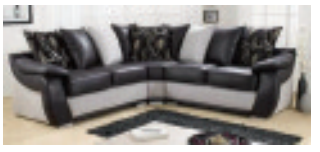

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GeoPost staff launch the Pink Parcel charity challenge

Parcel workers in pink for challenge

BOSSES at Sandwell-based parcel firm GeoPost UK took part in a 12-mile walk to raise money for a cancer charity.

Chief executive Dwain McDonald and eight of his team walked from the head office in Roebuck Lane, Smethwick, to the company's Interlink Express depot in Aldridge.

The trek is the first leg of the company's Pink Parcel Challenge which will see GeoPost staff carrying a pink parcel around the UK to support Breakthrough Breast Cancer.

Employees can run, swim, cycle or find any other means of travelling 3,907 miles – the distance between all the company's depots – to raise £50,000 by October 24.

Mr McDonald said: "It has been an absolutely fantastic start to the campaign.

"We're always up for a challenge and everyone has risen to the occasion."

To help with the fundraising venture visit online: www.justgiving.com/teams/DPD

Driver gets ban and bill

A DRUNK driver who swerved into the path of an oncoming car was banned from driving for two years.

Surjinder Singh, of Edwin Phillips Drive, West Bromwich, was also told to pay £300 after admitting driving while three times over the legal limit.

Warley Magistrates Court heard Singh, aged 39, was seen by police swerving between Holloway Bank, Wednesbury, and Witton Lane, West Bromwich.

Miss Indira Sharma, prosecuting, said: "Police saw the defendant swerve into oncoming traffic and clip a wing mirror. When police spoke to the defendant he was unsteady on his feet. Tests revealed he had 116 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath."

Mr Milo Turner, defending, said Singh told officers he had made a mistake.

He added: "And this is the first mistake he has made in terms of the law in his life.

"He has two dependent children in school in Wednesbury and has just started business as a manager in a fish and chip shop.

"He knows he faces a disqualification which will make it difficult for him to take his children to school and to travel to the wholesaler."

Magistrates said they took into account an early guilty plea.

Man found with haul of cannabis worth £1,500 is spared jail sentence

A 21-year-old man who was caught with more than £1,500 of cannabis during a police raid on a cafe in Smethwick has been spared a prison sentence.

Martin Eyles was found with a carrier bag containing 10 sealed bags of the drug, or enough for 77 street deals, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Prosecutor Mrs Kanwal Juss told the court Eyles revealed to the officers after his arrest he had been delivering the drugs to All Nations Fish Bar in Cape Hill so it could be passed on by others.

Eyles, of Longford Road, Kingstanding, admitted possessing cannabis with intent to supply.

Recorder Julian Taylor told him he had only been saved from jail by his previous good character and the fact he was in employment.

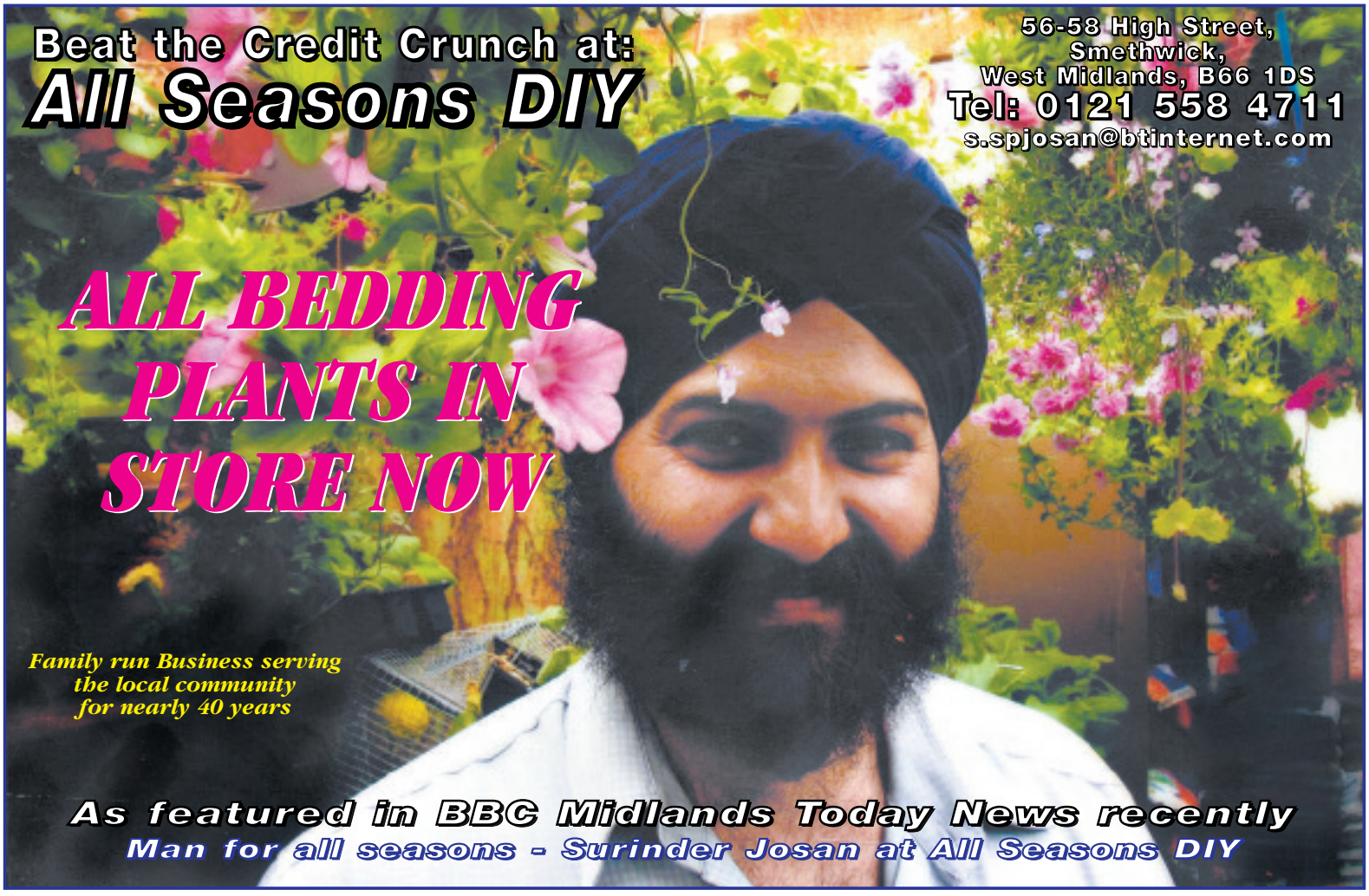
He said: "There is far too much drug dealing going on in this area.

Deserve

"This was a stupid piece of behaviour. You richly deserve to go to prison but I take the view I am just able to suspend the sentence."

The Recorder ruled that it was clear that Eyles had built up the drugs so he could sell them on and make a profit.

Eyles was given a 12-month jail term suspended for two years, placed under supervision for two years, ordered to carry out 180 hours of unpaid work and to pay £500 costs.



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A Twiggy-inspired setting for Aleksandra Boucher

The 60s inspire Nicola's award-winning fashion shoot on the city streets

Sandwell student Nicola Ferguson is off to Miami after winning an international fashion photography competition. She spoke to CATHY SPENCER

SHE is only six months into her course but Nicola Ferguson has been hailed as one of the best fashion photography students in the world.

The 31-year-old, studying at Sandwell College, wowed judges at Miami International Fashion Week and won the Student Photographer of the Year category.

One of her Twiggy-inspired fashion photos found its way into the pages of style Bible Vogue magazine.

Her prize for winning the competition is to participate in a fashion shoot in Miami alongside celebrity photographer Gio Alma, who has photographed stars such as Oscar-winner Tommy Lee Jones, US tennis ace Andy Roddick, singer Gloria Estefan and Italian fashion designer Roberto Cavalli.

Nicola, of Sutton Coldfield, who is only halfway through the first year of a HNC Photography course, used her talent and a tripod to set up a Twiggy-inspired fashion shoot near Birmingham's Central Library. She then went to do a 'steam punk' shoot at the Severn Valley Railway in Kidderminster.

"My husband Michael bought me my first camera and I started off doing pictures of flowers," she said.

"Then my sister-in-law Antoinette, who has a fashion blog, spoke to me about getting pictures of people.

Models

"We got in touch with an agency who gave us some models for free and we also managed to get the clothes as well as hair and make-up for nothing – they just wanted copies of the photos afterwards."

They walked around the centre of Birmingham and by the end of the day she had taken 500 photos.

"It was at Christmas that Antoinette saw the competition advertised online and so I decided to send in six of my best pictures."

She has been working as a manager for Clintons in the Bull Ring but is quitting to focus on her photographic career.

She swas shocked when she found out she had won the competition in America.

"I was getting off the train when my phone rang and it was Antoinette screaming down the phone at me saying I had won," she said. "I didn't believe it until I went home and had a look at the Miami International Fashion Week website and saw my photos on there."

The dress in the Twiggy-inspired shoot was loaned by a company called Electric Gypsy.

"After the shoot I gave Electric Gypsy some of the photos and they sent one of them into Vogue magazine," said Nicola. "One day I was flicking through the magazine, because I get it every month, when I spotted my photo.

"I couldn't believe itand it took me a few minutes to get my head around it"

Nicola's photos were exhibited at the New Stars in Fashion display at the Miami Beach Convention Centre as part of the international fashion week.

Nicola was on the verge of leaving her course, as juggling her job and photographing weddings at the weekend, was proving too much. She was talked out of it by course leader David Waldron, who gave tips on managing her workload.

"David our lecturer is always encouraging us to enter competitions, and one of my passions is fashion," she said.

"I enjoy the team atmosphere at the college. It was a struggle to find a college that did photography as a lot of them are dropping it now.

"However, Sandwell is one of very few in the West Midlands that do the course, which is why a lot of us travel quite a distance to attend the classes."

Nicola's award was sent to her in the post but she now looks forward to going to Miami to work with Gio Alma and getting her wedding photography business Daffodil Waves off the ground.

"That is something I definitely want to focus on," she added.

"To tell people that I have won a prestigious competition and already had one of my photos in Vogue magazine has given my career a boost while it is still in its early stages."

Photographer Nicola Ferguson at Sandwell College with her award from Miami

Another of Nicola Ferguson's 1960s inspired shots of Aleksandra Boucher in Birmngham city centre

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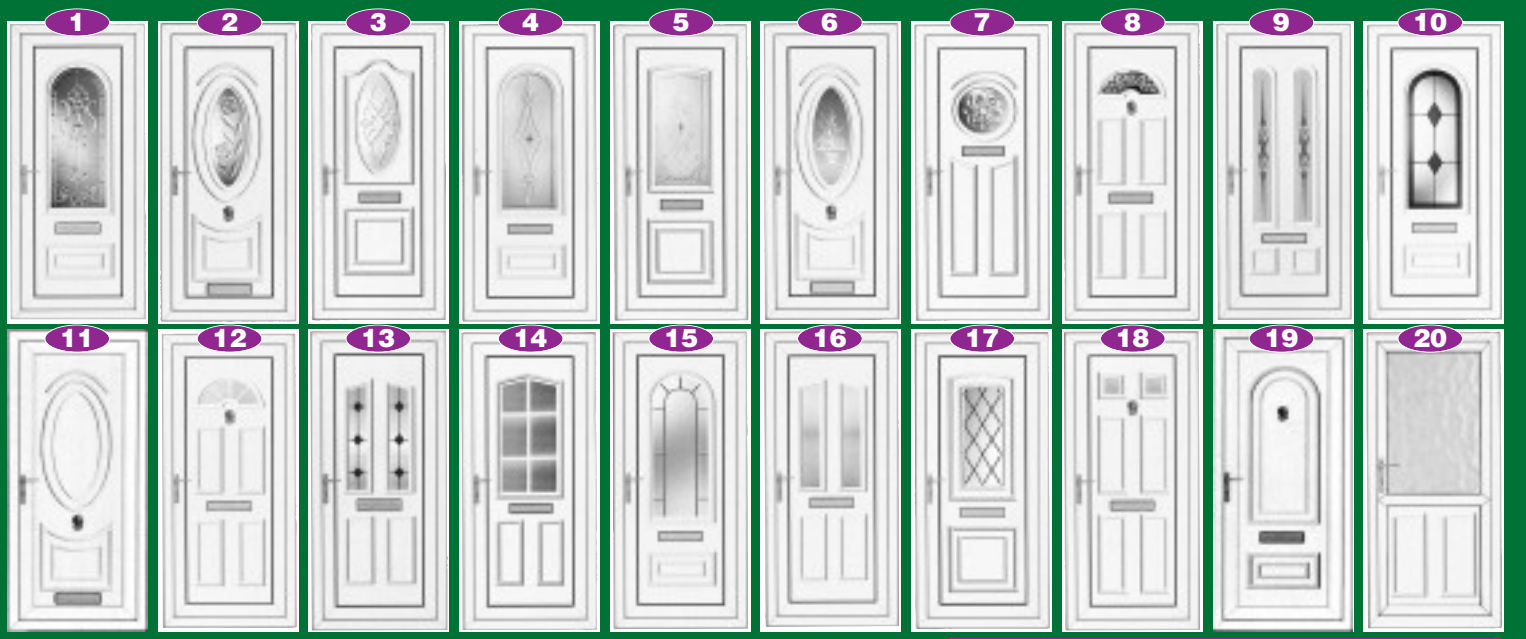

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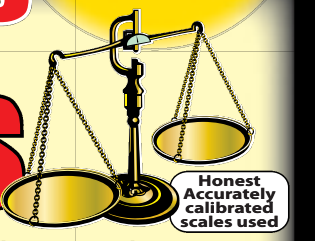

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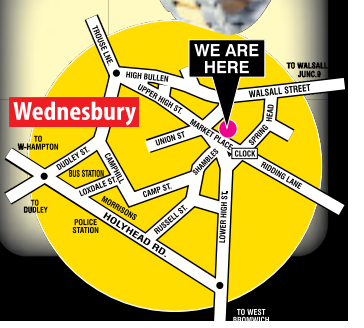

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E-mail: headteacher@alexandra.sandwell.sch.uk
Website: www.alexandrahigh.org.uk

Warley court watch

CONVICTION at Warley Magistrates' Court included:

George Smith, aged 54, of Sidaway Street, Cradley Heath: Fined £800 with £85 costs and ordered to pay £15 victim surcharge for stealing a PSP Go to the value of £169 from Tesco.

Wayne James Summers, aged 24, of Hawthorn Road, Tipton: Fined £100 with £85 costs and ordered to pay £15 victim surcharge for driving a Volkswagen Golf at Hawthorn Road's junction with Dick Sheppard Avenue while not wearing a seat belt, and for having used threatening abusive or insulting words or behaviour or disorderly behaviour within the hearing or sight of a person likely to be caused harassment, alarm or distress.

Michael Brennan, aged 55, of Birchcroft, French Walls, Smethwick: Fined £35 with £60 costs, ordered to pay £15 victim surcharge and endorsed three points on licence for driving a Vauxhall Vectra on B4135 Cramford Street opposite Fawdry Street, Smethwick, while exceeding the speed limit.

Terence Clabby, aged 57, of Gorsly Piece, Quinton: Given a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay £234 costs for being the parent of three children of compulsory school age who failed to attend school regularly.

Louise Hayley Cox, aged 36, of Barrs Street, Oldbury: Given a two-month community order, given a two-month curfew requirement, and ordered to pay £100 costs for having made a statement or representation, for the purpose of obtaining for herself a benefit or other payment under relevant social security legislation, or for any other purpose connected with that legislation, namely that she was living in the same household with someone as husband and wife which therefore would affect her income support benefit, which she knew to be false.

Winston Clive McClean, aged 51, of Hampstead Road, Handsworth: Fined £35 with £60 costs, ordered to pay £15 victim surcharge and endorsed three points on licence for driving a Jaguar on B4135 Cranford Street opposite Fawdry Street, while exceeding the speed limit.

Vince Price, aged 46, of Grosvenor Road, Handsworth: Fined £35 with £60 costs, ordered to pay £15 victim surcharge and endorsed three points for driving a Renault Laguna on the A34 Birmingham Road while exceeding the speed limit.

Kamal Jeet Singh, aged 34, of Gresham Road, Oldbury: Fined £35 with £60 costs, ordered to pay £15 victim surcharge and endorsed three points on licence for driving a Vauxhall Vectra on Ringway while using a hand-held mobile phone.

The following people have been convicted for failing to give information to the police relating to the identification of the driver of a vehicle who was alleged to have been guilty of an offence. Vehicles are placed in brackets:

Vincent Farquharson, aged 53, of Bancroft Close, Coseley: Fined £400 with £150 costs, ordered to pay £15 victim surcharge and endorsed six points on licence (Lexus).

Samantha Louise Sutton, aged 43, of Eva Road, Oldbury: Fined £220 with £60 costs, ordered to pay £15 victim surcharge and endorsed six points on licence (Kia Carens).

The following people have been convicted for failing to comply with the requirements of a community order:

Carl Paul Round (alias: Carl Round), aged 27, of George Road, Oldbury: Given a 12-month suspended sentence, 100 hours' unpaid work and ordered to pay £50 costs.

David John Turnbull (alias: David Turnbull), aged 19, of Cophall Street, Tipton: Given a 12-month community order, 120 hours unpaid work and ordered to pay £50 costs.

Simeon Luke Jarvis, aged 22, of Mincing Lane, Rowley Regis: Given a 12-month community order, given a four-month curfew requirement, ordered to participate in a low intensity alcohol programme for 14 days and ordered to pay £50 costs.

An artist's impression of Goldfield Court, Dartmouth Street, West Bromwich

First glimpse of apartments for the over-55s

THIS artist's impression shows what a new £12.3 million extra care scheme for older people will look like.

Goldfield Court, Dartmouth Street, West Bromwich, will include 92 self-contained apartments for the over-55s.

Work has started at the site and is set to be completed by the end of this year. Facilities at the site, in Greets Green, will also include a shop, restaurant and hair and beauty salon, which will be open to non-residents too.

It is being developed by social housing enterprise Housing 21 and its Midland property partners and Birmingham building services provider J S Wright has been awarded a £1.3m contract by principal contractor Thomas Vale Construction to fit out the scheme.

Staff

The development is the second Housing 21 extra care housing scheme to be provided in Sandwell. The first, Queensridge Court in Oldbury, opened its doors to residents in November 2010.

Apartments at the new scheme, which has received funding of £5 million from the Homes and Communities Agency, will each have a fully fitted kitchen and walk-in shower with non-slip flooring to the kitchen and bathroom. Staff on site will provide care and support, tailored to meet individual needs.

Allotments pledge

A COUNCIL chief has vowed that allotments in Sandwell are safe, after the Government revealed it will be reviewing laws which protect them.

Cabinet minister Eric Pickles is forging ahead with a review which could end legal protection for the sites

But Sandwell Council leader Councillor Darren Cooper said: "We have a strong demand for allotments. At the moment we have 280 people waiting. It would be ridiculous to sell them off with demand so high."

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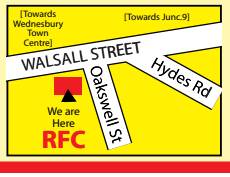

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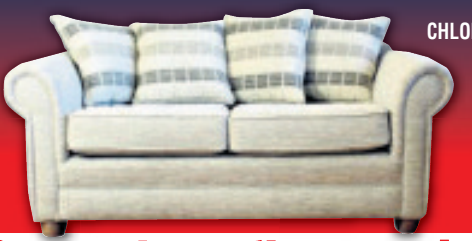

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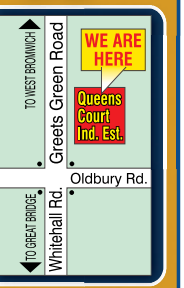

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thechronicle

Mayor and Mayoress of Birmingham Len and Gillian Gregory, Lt Col Jim Turner, Commander of Regional Recruiting and Major Bob Bath with recruits including, front, Adam Vinnicombe, of Smethwick, Leon Simpson, of West Bromwich, Daniel Whitehouse, of Tipton, Adam Dwyer, of Oldbury, John Darkwah, of Walsall, Peter Mpofu, of Rowley Regis, and Stuart Darby, of Great Barr

Recruits sign up for action

A GROUP of young men from the Black Country were among 20 to pledge allegiance to Queen and country in an Army sign-up ceremony.

Men from Great Barr, Smethwick and Walsall were among those to take part in the second largest enlistment ceremony at Birmingham Council House. Some had been waiting nearly two years for the coveted places which will see them start the gruelling training process in a couple of weeks time.

Stuart Darby, aged 29, of Gainsborough Road, Great Barr, who is joining the Royal Engineers, had been waiting 12 months to complete recruitment. He said: "I joined up because I want a career." Twenty-year-old Daniel Whitehouse of Churchyard Road, Tipton said he was delighted to finally join the Infantry Rifles.

Leon Simpson, aged 20 of Wiltshire Way, West Bromwich, who joined the Infantry Rifles, is a member of Birchfield Harriers athletics club and his sporting talent helped him shine.

Tipton pub gets a new lease of life as shop and restaurant

A TIPTON pub is to be brought back to life as a shop and restaurant under new plans.

Mr Xiong Hong Chen of High Street, Stourbridge, wants to open the Villa Italia and Dragon-i at the former Victoria Inn on Dudley Road.

Plans to install new signs and an extraction flue to the roof have now been approved by Sandwell Council, while alterations will also be made to form new doors and windows.

It is the latest pub in the town which has closed and is set to be transformed.

Sandwell Council's planning committee received three letters of objection from the owners of neighbouring properties about the changes before they were approved.

The objections included claims that the change of use would exacerbate parking problems in the area, that a restaurant would result in litter and vermin and that the noise from the extraction flue would result in noise disturbance and smells.

However, Tipton Green ward councillor Ian Jones has welcomed the revamp of the site which has been closed for months.

Empty

He said: "It has been empty for a short while and it is a fairly large public house and like many of the pubs all around here they are suffering.

"If the developer can make a go of it as a shop and a restaurant that would be something for the area, I have no doubt.

"If it is bringing a building back into use it can only be of benefit."

The pub will be the latest in the area to get a new lease of life. The Talbot pub, on the junction of Fountain Lane and Bradleys Lane, which has been closed for six months, is going up for auction this month and could be turned into flats. The former Beeches pub in Bristnall Hall Lane, Oldbury has reopened as a Tesco, with the creation of 10 jobs.

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w/c 16/05/11

Moat Farm Infants in Oldbury is top of the wish list

Figures show popularity of primary schools in the borough

THE most popular primary schools in Sandwell have been revealed – with some of them over-subscribed.

The Chronicle's sister newspaper the Express & Star has obtained admissions data for schools which shows a large gulf between applications.

The figures, released under the Freedom of Information Act, relate to the number of parents who picked each school as their first choice for their children starting this September.

However, schools and education chiefs say that the figures do not necessarily represent popularity.

They point out that some figures are dependent on the size of the catchment area.

In Sandwell, the most popular was Moat Farm Infant, Oldbury. A total of 107 parents put it down as their first choice, making it oversubscribed by 17 places.

Meanwhile, 13 applications were made to Sacred Heart Primary in Tipton. It is one of the smallest in Sandwell and has 16 places per year group and about 130 pupils in total.

Helen Barlow, headteacher at Moat Farm Infant in Brookfields Road, said: "I'm thrilled and delighted with those figures.

"They show our staff are being recognised for their hard work.

Difficult

"Obviously, it does show we are oversubscribed as well but this has been the same way for the last couple of years, I believe, but that's because many parents wish to send their children here."

Councillor Bob Badham, Sandwell's children and families boss, said: "The figures are difficult to look at in any scientific way because the choices parents make are very subjective.

"Some schools are popular because of the convenience to parents, and others are popular because of their perceived good performance.

"It's very difficult to quantify why parents make their choices.

"In Sandwell we are aiming to ensure all our schools are good performers so when parents have to choose schools, they know all of them are offering a good education."

Demand for places

Schools with the most applications were:

Moat Farm Infant School (Oldbury) 107

Devonshire Infant School (Smethwick) 97

Old Park Primary School (Wednesbury) 93

Abbey Infant School (Smethwick) 91

Victoria Infant School (Tipton) 86

Those with the least:

Sacred Heart Primary School (Tipton) 13

Grace Mary Primary School (Oldbury) 15

Brickhouse Primary School (Rowley Regis) 16

King George V Primary School (West Bromwich) 18

Timbertree Primary School (Cradley Heath) 20

The intrepid pair arrive at the Stadium of Light

Albion fans make Light work of an epic cycling trek

AN ALBION supporting pair of cyclists raised more than £3,000 for charity when they rode 250 miles to see their winning team.

Brian Watt and Rob Brown completed their mission from Th Hawthorns to the Stadium of Light, in Sunderland, in less than 48 hours.

Raising money for national charity MS Research, last month, the Baggies supporters, who are both company directors at Virtua UK, set off at 5.30am, before arriving in Sunderland at 12.30pm the next day, in time to watch West Bromwich win 3-2.

Unforgettable

Brian and Rob, who both have friends who suffer from MS, said it was an "unforgettable experience."

Rob said: "We are very proud of the money we have raised and the support we have received so far has been great."

To donate to the pair visit their Just Giving page at www.justgiving.com/robbrown-brianwatt.

Huge funding boost at youth training group

AN OLDBURY group which helps provide training opportunities for youngsters across the Black Country has received a £8.7 million boost.

Black Country Training Group, based in Taylors Lane, has secured the contract from the Government's Skills Funding Agency.

The money will support thousands of adult apprenticeship places, particularly helping 19-24 year-olds in Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Chris Luty, Black Country Training Group director, said the funding was a welcome boost to the region."Already this year, through our contract with the Skills Funding Agency we have been able to fund £3.5 million of apprenticeship training for young people and adults," he said.

Encourage

"Apprenticeships are a major benefit to the local economy because they encourage employers to take on young people and adults in a very cost effective way.

"All the training costs for 16-18 year old apprentices are fully met, and dependent on the age and existing skills of adult apprentices part of the training costs can be covered.

"Knowing the funding for apprenticeships is secured for the next two years is a real boost, allowing the group to help local employers invest in their businesses as well as the skills of the local community."

The group will manage apprenticeship contracts and a consortium of training providers who will provide placements in employment.

Theatre launch appeal to pay for new stage

FUNDRAISING is to take place to build a new stage at one of the West Midlands' leading theatres, Birmingham Hippodrome.

The Birmingham Hippodrome Theatre Development Trust is aiming to raise £1 million to build the new stage, which was last rebuilt in the early 1980s.

A crew of between 30 and 40 staff will be working 24-hours-a-day for at least three weeks on the changes in August next year.

Trust chairman Mark Smith has appealed for anyone who might be able to help with the project to come forward and support the 112-year-old theatre.

"Birmingham Hippodrome's stage is one of the most versatile in the world and proudly boasts virtually all the greatest names in arts and entertainment over more than a century," he said.

"An essential but short period of closure in the autumn of 2012 will enable us to complete the most important work."

Future

He added: "If you can assist us in our efforts to rebuild the stage and enable new generations to enjoy performances at Birmingham Hippodrome, please get in touch.

"There are opportunities for businesses, individuals and trusts to play a part in securing the theatre's future."

The existing staging will be ripped out, the foundations secured and a smooth new surface deployed. Dip tracks – the under stage network of cables and pipes – will be refrabicated and new light controls fitted.

The 82ft by 60ft stage was last rebuilt in phases between 1981 and 1983. Since then more than 650 productions have taken place.

In the past few years it has been flooded with water, iced over, covered in snow and has accommodated a roller-skate catwalk.

It was even cut open for a production of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

The ladies only keep fit group get busy

Focus on female fitness

SANDWELL Leisure Trust is offering local women the chance to get fit and feel fabulous for summer at two female-only community exercise classes in Cradley.

The classes feature a mix of aerobics, circuits and fitness and toning and are fun, figure-fixing workouts.

The classes take place at Cradley Community Centre, Reddal Hill Road every Monday and Thursday morning from 9.30am to 10.30am costing only £2 per class.

For more information visit the website www.slt-leisure.co.uk or contact Matt Hill, Physical Activity Development Officer, on 0845 659 4815 (option 0) or call 07879 890252.

Inquest hears death crash motorist was driving 'impatiently'

A MOTHER who died after her car was involved in a head-on collision with a bus had been driving "impatiently", an inquest heard.

Jacqueline Ottley, of Wednesbury, was killed when her BMW Mini and a number 428 bus carrying pupils from Wodensborough Technology Community College collided on Church Lane in West Bromwich last year.

The inquest at Smethwick Council House heard that the 43-year-old mother-of-seven had been seen doing a U-turn minutes before the crash at around 3.45pm on November 24.

Jacqueline Ottley

In a statement witness Pamela Grice from Stone Cross described the U-turn manoeuvre and said in her view Mrs Ottley was a "risk taker".

Overtake

After the U-turn the hearing was told Mrs Ottley had driven along Black Lake and turned right on to Church Lane and looked like she intended to overtake the Land Rover in front.

Kerri Yates, of Booth Street, Bloxwich, who was driving the Land Rover, said: "The Mini behind me started to overtake,but there was an oncoming bus and there wasn't enough room. The vehicle then pulled in sharply and hit the front of my Land Rover and then careered down the road and into the front of the bus."

Crash investigator Pc Robin Smalley told the inquest: "The driver was not wearing a seat belt. If she had, the extent of the injuries would not have been as serious and she may well have survived the impact."

Bus driver Jagrup Singh suffered neck and back injuries and was taken to hospital along with 11 others, including a pregnant woman and schoolchildren.

Black Country Coroner Robin Balmain concluded the inquest by saying: "In my view this was an extremely impatient piece of driving and she was clearly being impatient during the course of this accident."

He said Mrs Ottley, of Vowles Road, died as a result of multiple injuries caused by a road traffic collision.

He added: "It is by the grace of God that nobody else was killed during the course of this impact."

Speaking afterwards Mrs Ottley's daughter Kasheay said: "We all love our mum and we are just going to do everything we can to make her proud. We are just all in shock."

Hope for three care homes

THREE Sandwell Council-run care homes, used by dozens of pensioners and threatened with closure, are nearer to being saved as two bidders line up to take them over.

The homes are Grafton Lodge in Oldbury, Greenhaven Resource Centre, West Bromwich, and Glebefields Resource Centre in Tipton. The homes had been set to close after Sandwell Council announced they were no longer fit for purpose last year.

However, following a last minute change of heart the council reversed its decision, offering a 12-month stay of execution to see if a private operator could be found.

A fourth, John Dando Residential Centre in Hamstead Road Great Barr, had to close.

Council leader Councillor Darren Cooper revealed two private bidders, who cannot be named, were vying to take over three of the homes, after a closed doors meeting of the authority's ruling cabinet.

"We've got two very serious bidders preparing bids to take on the running of the homes," he said.

More road closures ahead at the Burnt Tree Island

SEVERAL roads around Sandwell's busy Burnt Tree Island are closing for resurfacing work, causing more headaches for Black Country motorists.

The work is part of the ongoing £12.3 million scheme to transform the roundabout into a four-arm junction.

There will be no access into and out of Bunns Lane from Birmingham New Road between 6pm and 6am tomorrow (Friday).

The A461 Birmingham Road will be closed overnight between 8pm and 6am for eight days from May 31. Birmingham New Road will be closed from the Burnt Tree junction heading towards Wolverhampton between 8pm and 6am for five nights from May 31.

Diversions

Also, for eight nights from May 31, drivers will not be able to turn right from Birmingham New Road into Birmingham Road and Burnt Tree between 8pm and 6am. The A461 Burnt Tree will be closed from Coneygree Road to the Burnt Tree junction with access to Toby Inn and residents only.

The closure will be in place from 8pm to 6am for two nights from June 6. Signed diversions will be in place at all locations during the closures.

For more information see the website at www.sandwell.gov.uk.

Police chief leads blitz on burglars and robbers

Ch Supt Mark Robinson

THREE new police operations have been launched in Sandwell to crack down on burglars and robbers, led by the borough's new police chief.

Chief Superintendent Mark Robinson replaced Ch Supt Steve Dugmore, who was forced to retire after 30 years' service under cost-saving moves by West Midlands Police Authority, using force regulations.

And the new head of Sandwell police revealed that the last few weeks had seen the launch of two initiatives to crack-down on burglary – Operation Banish in the Charlemont, Grove Vale and Newton areas, as well as Operation Accomplice around Langley and Rowley.

Robberies around Smethwick High Street and Victoria Park were also the focus of a special initiative, under the umbrella of the new Operation Justice.

Mr Robinson said the high visibility operations involved sending uniformed police officers into the areas affected, and gathering evidence from local people.

Prioritise

He said they formed part of a statement of his policing priorities across the borough.

He said they wanted to help victims and lock up the crooks responsible for break-ins and street muggings.

"Serious acquisitive crime is a top priority for us," he explained. "We are looking to prioritise burglaries, robberies and vehicle crime because we know they are always in the top ten per cent of our crime figures.

"We want to help the victims.

"These are heinous offences, certainly robberies where someone snatches a chain from someone's neck, and they need to be punished."

Anti-social behaviour and low-level crime are the second part of the police's focus in the borough under the new chief's leadership.

Mr Robinson, who arrived in Sandwell on promotion after recent years as crime and operations superintendent in Coventry, added: "This is an important area of business for us.

"We know people want us to tackle this and we want to improve more – cutting drunken behaviour, criminal damage and anti-social behaviour and other low level crime.

"I want Sandwell Police to deliver on this."

Wedding ring stolen from woman aged 96

BURGLARS stole a 96-year-old woman's wedding ring when breaking into her Sandwell home.

The woman was in bed when two men burgled the property in Cape Hill, Smethwick. The men threatened the woman, who was "extremely distressed" by the ordeal.

Detective Constable Mark Timmins said: "The victim was very upset and received treatment for shock. She is distressed as the offenders took her gold wedding and engagement rings and a watch."

The men were both described as white, 5ft 9in tall, aged in their 20s to 30s and wearing dark clothes.

The burglary, which happened at 3.15am on Saturday.

Anyone with information should call police on 0345 113 5000.

Cocaine couriers are jailed

TWO Black Country men caught trying to smuggle £500,000 worth of cocaine into the country have been locked up for eight years each.

The pair were stopped at Gatwick Airport on February 24, on a return flight from Montego Bay, Jamaica. Khramme Nettleford, aged 19, of Surrey Road, Dudley, and Gary Whittall, 30, of The Parade, Cradley Heath, were carrying 100 per cent pure cocaine. Whittall had five boxes of cocaine and Nettleford four, a total weight of 3.15kg, said Miss Shazia Ahmed, prosecuting.

Judge Simon Pratt at Croydon Crown Court said: "Those who import hard drugs do so at the expense of the growing hundreds of thousands of addicts, some of whom will die from their drug-taking, and many will commit serious violent crime to fund their addiction."

Judge Pratt accepted the pair were no more than couriers. They both pleaded guilty to illegal importation of prohibited goods. Whittall was jailed for eight years and Nettleford was sent to youth custody.

Fellowship and fundraising at guild

A WEDNESBURY group, which has raised tens of thousands of pounds for charity, is looking for new members.

Wednesbury Townswomen's Guild, based at Wednesbury Baptist Church in Vicar Street, celebrated its 25th anniversary last week.

And stalwarts are calling for new blood to keep the group going.

The guild has supported charities including Young Carers and the Air Ambulance over the years,

Chairwoman Olive Powell, a retired teacher, said the new members would treasure the friendships and social events.

Member Dorothy Lowe said the group had been her lifeline after her husband Thomas – 'Ted' – passed away a year after she moved to the town.

Mrs Lowe said: "The guild really helped me after his death. The friendships snap you out of it."

For information about joining the guild call 0121 531 1034.

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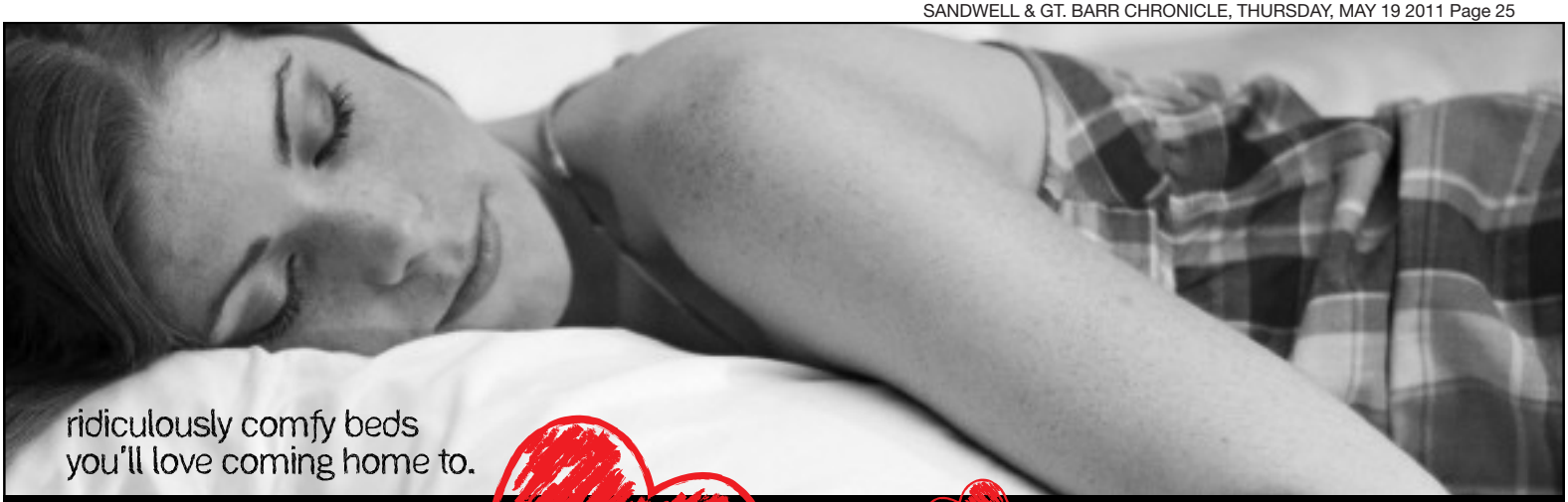

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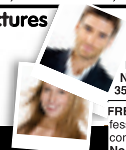

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women seeking men

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BLACK attractive female, 34, slim, N/S, seeks genuine white male for friendship, maybe more. Holby. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 367021**

RAQUEL Asian babe, dark hair, tattooed, single mum, genuine, slim, petite, affectionate, sensitive, seeks special male. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 366755**

CURVY brunette, 21yrs, big eyes, tall, lovely smile, seeks tall dark handsome male 30-50yrs for fun nights out and intimate nights in. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 366709**

VIVACIOUS strawberry blonde who knows just what she wants, wants down to earth caring male for spontaneous fun relationship. 35-69. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 366707**

CURVY red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 377432**

30YR old attractive confident business women, frequently in area seeks older gent for mutual spoiling, pampering and fun. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358137**

PRETTY female 24, tall, dark hair/eyes, likes meals out, looking for male, any age/status for LTR. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 361953**

BIG is beautiful! Female looking for someone to share a life time of happiness with. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 368528**

32YR Irish lass working away from home and friends, lonely and looking for older male companionship with no ties or complications, **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363273**

NAUGHTY female 50 WLTM male 69yr plus who knows what he is doing for mutual appreciation and fun. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 365061**

TRACY 49, petite, N/S, likes motorbikes, jogging, walks, cycling, seeks male for companionship and days out. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 365809**

BEAUTY 39 looking for much older male for very special relationship. Looks unimportant, Single dad welcome, ACA. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 360825**

SLIM feminine brunette 22, big brown eyes, attractive, active and a nurse, looking for older male for fun, TLC and more 30-58. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 365059**

DEBBIE 38, fit size 12, WLTM intelligent man for fun relationship with no ties. Any age. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 360827**

5FT 1ins female, GSOH, seeks 5ft 5ins plus, well built male with GSOH for fun, fun, fun. W Midlands. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 365743**

SHAPELY solvent, blonde professional lady who sees life as an adventure, seeks attractive fun male who can handle a feisty lady. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 366383**

OPTIMISTIC very attractive, slim blue eyed brunette looking for love with spontaneous younger open minded guy. OHAC. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 366005**

MANDY 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 360317**

CLASSY gorgeous 22yr old seeking wealthy sugar daddy to care for her. Any age/status/looks unimportant. fun guaranteed. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 365997**

HOME alone with no one to call my own! 38yr old naughty girl looking for fun. Can travel. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363277**

ONCE bitten twice shy! Just looking for non complicated fun. Attractive, OHAC, you won't be disappointed. Any age/looks/status. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 364307**

VERY attractive 18yr old fitness instructor looking to burn some extra calories with older experienced male who thinks he can keep up, 30-60. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 364311**

42YR old Sagittarian 5ft 7ins, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks genuine, caring guy interested in films, meals out, country walks, gardening and travel, 45-55. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358399**

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 364651**

SHROPSHIRE lady 48, slim, attractive, N/S, seeks attractive male, 5ft 10ins plus for good times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 359491**

PROFESSIONAL independent lady, 49, slim, blonde, attractive, varied interests, seeks intelligent, romantic, sincere, genuine male with GSOH for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 359351**

WHITE 50's genuine modern West Brom female, divorced, easygoing, seeks fit modern male, 50-60 for LTR. Car owner preferred. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358855**

SHROPSHIRE lady, 61, likes countryside, sea, travel, cooking, sewing, lived on farm, seeks special genuine gent for nice match. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 334241**

CARING and honest lady 61, 5ft 2ins, WLTM very caring and honest gentleman. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 357985**

KIND romantic, loving lady, slight disability, seeks genuine male for romance. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 357751**

SUE attractive, slim, 50's, green eyes, varied interests, trendy, OHAC, seeks special guy. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 180587**

FEMALE 51, slim, 5ft 4ins, genuine, caring, seeks soul mate who is genuine and caring. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 356761**

SLIM professional, attractive, amiable lady, 55, seeks genuine, articulate, professional gent, 55 plus with GSOH and enjoys the good things in life. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 356411**

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363428**

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 384852**

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WIDOWED lady 70's, likes countryside, travel, seaside, seeks nice gent to spend time with. Shropshire Area **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 362993**

DIY gardening, friendly geek required by friendly 55yr old attractive teacher, soulful lady to share sunny days and starlit nights in my hilltop cottage garden. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 365137**

OPTIMISTIC Shropshire lass, slim, gorgeous, seeks good looking gent, 40-50 with GSOH. Bridgnorth area preferred. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 362033**

CATS DIY, gardening, friendly, educated geek required by ex teacher and soulful lady to share sunny days and starlit nights in my hilltop cottage. Shropshire. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363957**

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 384852**

WENDY dark hair/eyes, medium build, seeks male for friendship and see what happens. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 361589**

LADY 70's, seeks gent of similar age for friendship, days out and holidays. Dudley area. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 361043**

BUBBLY female, 42, young at heart, honest, caring, likes outdoors, cinema, theatre, meals out, seeks likeminded male/soul mate, 40-50. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 357919**

LINDA 70's, likes theatre, dancing, seeks nice gent for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355891**

YOUNG looking, pretty female, 40, brunette, slim, no ties, N/S, seeks attractive, refined male for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 313115**

ATTRACTIVE female, 42, slim, brunette, no ties, N/S, likes travel, nights out, weekends away, seeks slim male for possible relationship. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 327579**

men seeking women

Guys Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 65125 (T&C's below).

HAPPY fit active guy, 50's, likes sports, walks, meals out, theatre, weekends away, seeks nice, attractive female to share outings with. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 367047**

EASYGOING male, 40, seeks female for good times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 366957**

AFTAR 43, kind, caring, likes days in/out, seeks female, 28-40 for fun times, maybe more. Sutton Coldfield. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 366853**

31YR old, slim, dark hair, dynamic, fit, shy, likes photography, music, outdoors, seeks likeminded female of similar age. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 352753**

MALE 70's, keen gardener, likes country walks, socialising, day trips, seeks kind, caring lady, 70-75. Shifnall area. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 366407**

GENT 40, GSOH, likes music, pubs, meals out, seeks nice lady, 30-40 for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 365365**

MALE late 40's, likes nights in/out, cooking, dancing, walks, cinema, seeks caring female for friendship, maybe more. Shropshire. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 366343**

GENUINE male, honest, caring, OHAC, likes socialising, holidays, seeks attractive female, 55-70 for special relationship. Whitchurch. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 366181**

46YR old male, 5ft 5ins, blue eyes, short hair, N/S, intelligent, likes swimming, fishing, walks, days out, seeks similar honest female. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 352575**

TALL fit good looking friendly guy with GSOH, 49, seeks adventurous lady for fun only, daytime liaisons. Halesowen. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358747**

FREE holiday! Attractive, professional male, 33, seeks your company this summer. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 187297**

ATTRACTIVE professional, genuine, sincere, honest gent, likes cinema, walks, seeks attractive, slim, special lady, 30-50 for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 366103**

COUNTRY gent, 56, no ties, affluent, handsome, seeks local stunner with legs to die for, must be attractive and liberal minded, 35-49. Hammerwich. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 365909**

MATURE male, seeks female for kisses, cuddles and naughty indoor fun. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363253**

MALE 39, blond hair, brown hair, 5ft 4ins, slim-medium build, attractive, genuine, varied interests, seeks female, 46-55, size 16-20 for laughs, days out and fun. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 366267**

EARLY 50's male, easygoing, seeks female for fun. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 337153**

GOOD hearted 21yr old student, looking for loving relationship with female, 18-21. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 362119**

MALE early 60's, fit, active, N/S, no ties, likes travel, country walks, nights in, seeks female, 50-65 for LTR. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 366515**

HELP help, help! Inexperienced CD, 52, seeks understanding female for fun and excitement. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 226021**

SPORTY good looking guy, 37, OHAC, good job, likes meals out, pubs, cinema, nights in, seeks attractive female, 27-42. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 364633**

STOP! Steve 52, confident, seeks high heeled, female for fun and adventure. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 227298**

55YR old male, kind, generous, loving, seeks lady for mistress type relationship. Staffs. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 366445**

MALE seeks open-minded female, any age/nationality for fun and good times. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 366425**

MALC blue eyes, slim, seeks open-minded female, any age/nationality for fun and good times. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 350993**

SINGLE guy, seeks nice lady for fun, maybe more. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 364395**

TALL handsome male, 41, GSOH, likes romantic days/nights in/out, WLTM attractive, down to earth, young lady, 35-55, size unimportant. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 346611**

GRAHAM slim, 66, young outlook, fit, seeks genuine, intelligent lady with GSOH, 50-60's for LTR. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 361665**

43YR old male, kind, caring, seeks female, 36-45 to bring a sparkle to life, for fun, maybe more. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363603**

MALE 58, likes nights in, seeks female, any age 40-80 for cosy nights in and adult fun. Must like dogs. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 362199**

32YR old guy, likes music, cooking, joking, seeks female, 40-45 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 332365**

gay/friends seeking

GAY guy looking for love with gay guy in the Wolverhampton area. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 367221**

TELFORD male, 62, bi, seeks similar male, any race for discreet fun. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 367053**

KEVIN 34, 6ft 2ins, blond hair, medium build, toned, young boyish good looks likes nights out, sports, holidays, seeks similar male, any age for fun. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355984**

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thechronicle

Ikea restaurant to nearly double in size

Expansion – Ikea in Wednesbury

THE next phase of the £6.8 million expansion at Wednesbury's Ikea store will see its restaurant almost double in size.

The 26,877 sq ft extension is expected to be completed by the autumn and will create 23 jobs.

Work will start increasing the seating area of the restaurant from 270 to 459 next month.

More than 100 people are working on improvements to the landmark store, just off Junction 9 of the M6.

The first phase of work sees the customer services entrance being extended, the lobby area enlarged and the shop floor increased so there is capacity for more stock.

The size of the play area and toilets will also be expanded.

Work will start on the new restaurant on June 5 and will take around two months to complete.

Store manager Gary Pearce, said: "From June 5 we will start work on our new restaurant which we aim to re-open within eight weeks.

"Due to its popularity, we will increase the number of seats from 270 to 459 and also add more tasty food options to the menu.

"We anticipate that this will become one of the biggest restaurants in the West Midlands."

A temporary cafe will open on at the store on June 6.

Meanwhile, this week work has also started on improving Ikea's upper Market Hall area, which stocks cooking utensils, dinnerware and textiles, as well as bathroom accessories.

Swedish

Mr Pearce added: "This new and improved area will include a new home organisation department with lots of smart solutions to help you tidy up your home, as well as a new bath shop, both of which are due for completion on May 27."

"We have also started work on improving our Swedish Food Market area.

"This will more than double in size and will hold a much bigger Swedish food range.

"We have also started work on our store's new exit area, which will include new toilet facilities."

Retired copper's portrait gift for the new library

A RETIRED West Bromwich policeman turned author will present a new library with some art when he visits today (Thursday).

Bryan Connor will be giving a talk about his book Voices from a Blue Box – Tales from a Black Country Copper at the Jack Judge House Oldbury library at 2.30pm

He has created a pastel portrait of Jack Judge, the Oldbury songwriter who wrote It's a Long Way to Tipperary and whom the library is named after, and plans to present it on the day.

Mr Connor said he wanted to give younger library users an idea of what the songwriter looked like in real life.

Mr Connor is visiting the library as part of Black Country Book Fortnight.

Voices from a Blue Box – Tales from a Black Country Copper hit the shelves last year and talks about Mr Connor's experiences working at West Bromwich, Smethwick and Old Hill police stations.

It is available from www.waterstones.com for £14.57.

Man collapsed

THE inquest on a 28-year-old Wednesbury man who collapsed at his home has been opened and adjourned. Ian Hamilton collapsed at his home in Kilvert Road on May 4 and could not be resuscitated. Opening the inquest, Black Country coroner Robin Balmain said the cause of death was not certain. Mr Hamilton's mother, Jayne, had said he had a history of suffering blackouts.

Ready to start restoration work on Oak House

WORK on the £1.6 million restoration of an historic Black Country museum is set to start this autumn.

Sandwell Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund have each invested around £800,000 in the scheme at the 16th century Oak House in West Bromwich.

The 17th century timber-framed stable block in the grounds which will host exhibitions, is being restored. Servants quarters in the house itself will be restored and opened to visitors for the first time.

There will also be a shop, cafe, classroom and community meeting room in an adjacent 18th century brick-built barn. It is hoped the improvements will attract an extra 30,000 visitors a year to the Oak Road site.

A planning application for the work is set to be submitted within weeks and tenders are being drawn up. Work is due to take up to 15 months.

Protect

Frank Caldwell, principal officer for museums, arts and tourism said: "Oak House is a wonderful site which we are obliged to protect and enhance for future generations. These plans will ensure it has a bright future as an attraction for local people and those from further afield."

The historic property is thought to have been named after a large oak tree which stood in front of the house until early last century.

The original owners of Oak House are not known, but the family most closely associated with it are the Turtons who were resident in the 1630s.

thechronicle **COMPETITION**

Follow Fast Freddie to the Cardiff GP!

Wolves star Fredrik Lindgren is one of the top riders to line up at Cardiff

SGP — FIM Doodson British Speedway Grand Prix — doodson

Win speedway tickets to the Millennium Stadium

FAST and furious family fun, the FIM Doodson British Speedway Grand Prix at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium is right up there with the biggest events on the British motorsport calendar – and we're giving 11 lucky readers plus a guest the chance to be there, with one treated to hospitality!

This year's event, which will take place on Saturday, June 25 promises to be part of one of the most competitive GP seasons ever with four world champions – Tomasz Gollob, Jason Crump, Nicki Pedersen and Greg Hancock – among those battling for the title.

British rider Chris Harris will be looking to repeat his 2007 winning Cardiff performance as the best riders in the world go full throttle in front of thousands of fans. In an event that promises to be full of drama and thrills, the riders will reach speeds of up to 70mph while competing on 500cc bikes with no brakes and acceleration that's faster than an F1 car!

The fun will start in the Fanzone on St Mary Street and the Grand Prix will start with pre-event entertainment in the Millennium Stadium, followed by the meeting itself and finishing with a fantastic firework display.

We've teamed up with the FIM Doodson British Speedway Grand Prix organisers to give Chronicle readers the chance to enjoy this afternoon of nonstop sporting action and all you have to do to be in with a chance of winning is answer this simple question: **What is the name of the British Grand Prix rider looking to repeat his 2007 British SGP win at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium?**

Send your answer, along with your name, address and a daytime telephone number to: FIM Doodson British Speedway Grand Prix competition, Chronicle series (editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

The deadline for competition entries is Thursday, June 2.

Editor's decision is final and usual terms and conditions apply.

If you're not lucky enough to win, tickets can be purchased online via www.speedwaygp.com or by calling 0871 230 7155.

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Don't be blue – join brothers in arms for the sounds of soul

Jake and Elwood in the All New Tribute to the Blues Brothers

GET ready for some rollicking rhythm and blues when The 'All New' Original Tribute to The Blues Brothers arrives in Wolverhampton on Monday (May 23)

The sounds of Chicago will be heard at the Grand through to Saturday (28) when Jake and Elwood return in their blue serge suits and pork pie hats for evenings of unadulterated R&B, based on the classic John Landis movie from 1980 (minus the car chases).

So, if you fancy wearing sunglasses after dark and shaking a tail feather, join the Blues Bros and their Bluettes for some stirring soul.

The breathtaking agility and feats of strength of The Shaolin Warriors will amaze audiences at the Grand this Sunday night (May 22), when the orange-robed kung fu experts show their considerable skills.

A classic drama about decency versus bigotry, Christopher Sergel's adaptation of Harper Lee's To Kill A Mockingbird, ends its run at the Grand on Saturday (May 21). Emmerdale actor and sometime Victoria Wood collaborator Duncan Preston plays small town Deep South lawyer Atticus Finch.

'Strictly' dancers Vincent Simone and Flavia Cacace turn up the heat in Midnight Tango, a sultry and sexy dance spectacular at Birmingham Hippodrome from Monday (23) to Saturday (28). Meanwhile, naughty New York musical with puppets Avenue Q ends its Hippodrome run this Saturday (21).

Enjoy some sultry and sexy moves as Strictly Come Dancing's Vincent Simone and Flavia Cacace turn up the heat in Midnight Tango at the Birmingham Hippodrome from next Monday (May 28)

Gothic

Derren Brown's mind-bending Svengali show continues at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre to Saturday (21).

Tomorrow night (Friday) singer and one of the Loose Women, Jane McDonald, is in concert at the Symphony Hall, Birmingham.

Marti Pellow stars as Jekyll & Hyde in the gothic horror musical at Stoke's Regent Theatre from Monday to Saturday (23 to 28).

There's more musical gothic horror at The Crescent in Birmingham when the theatre's company present Sweeney Todd, Stephen Sondheim's musical thriller about the Demon Barber of Fleet Street, from May 18 to June 4. Broadway musical about a sex-change German rock star, Hedwig and the Angry Inch, is currently being staged at The Crescent.

Clare Summerskill takes a comic look at life as a lesbian at Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre tomorrow night (Friday). Krazy Kat present A Victorian Mikado using masks and puppets in a family production at The Arena on Monday at 10.30am and 1.30pm.

Comedy highlights include: Irish comic Ed Byrne with Karl Spain at Wolverhampton Civic Hall tomorrow (Friday); Stephen K Amos at the New Alex on Wednesday, May 25; Carl Donnelly is top of the bill at The Glee Club in Birmingham on Friday and Saturday (27/28); the fast and furious Imran Yusuf at The Glee on Wednesday and at The Slade Rooms in Wolverhampton next Thursday, May 26

The Royal Shakespeare Company's repertoire at Stratford now includes The Merchant of Venice with Patrick Stewart as Shylock.

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Choice

DOCTOR WHO
BBC 1, 6.45pm

Part one of two. A solar tsunami causes the Tardis to land at a futuristic factory on Earth, where humans are making use of a mysterious pool to create drone-like doppelgangers of themselves. The clones are directed by their masters to mine dangerous acids, but when a second wave hits, they begin to develop ideas of their own. Guest starring Marshall Lancaster (Ashes to Ashes), Sarah Smart (At Home with the Braithwaites) and Raquel Cassidy (Lead Balloon), alongside Matt Smith, Karen Gillan and Arthur Darvill.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Football Focus. **12.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **12.10** Formula 1: The Spanish Grand Prix – Qualifying. Coverage from the Circuit de Catalunya in Barcelona (Start-time 1.00pm). **2.15** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Wakefield Trinity Wildcats v Castleford Tigers (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.35** Don't Scare the Hare. **5.10** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.35** So You Think You Can Dance Live.

6.45 Doctor Who. Part one of two. The Doctor visits a futuristic factory.
7.30 So You Think You Can Dance. The dancers with the lowest votes perform again.
7.55 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Game show in which strangers pair up to win money.
8.45 Casualty. An administrative error throws the ED into turmoil and puts a boy's life in danger, while Mads encounters an aggressive taxi driver.
9.35 John Bishop's Britain. Comedy, with guest James Corden. (R)
10.05 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.
10.25 FILM: Deja Vu. (2006) Sci-fi thriller, starring Denzel Washington, Paula Patton, Val Kilmer and Jim Caviezel.

12.20 Film: Judgment Night. (1993) Thriller, starring Emilio Estevez and Cuba Gooding Jr; Weatherview. **2.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **12.00** Film: It Happened One Night. (1934) Oscar-winning romantic comedy, with Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert. **1.40** Diagnosis Murder. (R) **2.25** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.25** Two Greedy Italians. (R) **4.25** Film: The Heroes of Telemark. (1965) Second World War thriller, starring Kirk Douglas and Richard Harris.

6.30 Flog It! Paul Martin and the experts examine a selection of antiques in Durham. (R)
7.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring guards some PoWs. (R)
8.00 Operation Mincemeat. How Britain deceived Hitler into thinking the Allies were planning to invade Greece in 1943, allowing them to land in Sicily – their real target – with minimal resistance. (R)
9.00 Have I Got a Bit More News for You. Satirical current affairs quiz. (R)
9.45 Our 'Enry: A Tribute to Sir Henry Cooper. A profile of the late boxer, who claimed the British, Commonwealth and European heavyweight titles during his illustrious career.
10.30 FILM: Cinderella Man. (2005) Fact-based drama, with Russell Crowe, Renee Zellweger and Paul Giamatti.

12.45 Later with Jools Holland. (R) **1.50** Film: The Set-Up. (1949) Boxing drama, starring Robert Ryan. **3.00** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **8.25** House Gift. (R) **9.25** Coronation Street. **11.45** This Morning: Saturday. **12.40** ITV News; Weather. **12.45** You've Been Framed! (R) **1.15** Film: Carry On Screaming. (1966) Comedy horror, starring Kenneth Williams. **3.05** Film: Moonraker. (1979) James Bond spy adventure, starring Roger Moore. **5.25** Regional Programmes. **5.35** ITV News; Weather. **5.50** New People Do the Funniest Things.

6.45 Sing If You Can. The final of the singing competition. Last in the series.
8.00 Britain's Got Talent. The penultimate round of auditions, as more acts try to impress judges Michael McIntyre, Amanda Holden and David Hasselhoff. Ant and Dec host.
9.00 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Des O'Connor. The entertainer discusses his stage and TV career, talks about becoming a father at the age of 72 and reveals how gambling cost him his family home. Last in the series.
10.00 ITV News; Weather.
10.15 FILM: Tightrope. (1984) Thriller, starring Clint Eastwood, Genevieve Bujold and Dan Hedaya.

12.25 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **2.30** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.20** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

Channel 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** British Formula 3 International Series. **7.25** The Grid. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.50** T4: Friends. (R) **9.20** T4: Koko Pop. **9.50** T4: Friends. (R) **10.30** T4: Gaga's Monsters. **11.20** T4: Glee. **12.20** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.50** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.20** That Paralympic Show. **1.55** Channel 4 Racing. **4.00** Come Dine with Me Down Under. **4.30** Come Dine with Me Down Under. **5.00** Come Dine with Me Down Under. **5.30** Come Dine with Me Down Under.

6.00 Come Dine with Me Down Under. Mark Alexander tries to pass shop-bought food off as his own.
6.30 Channel 4 News.
6.55 4thought.tv.
7.00 The Restoration Man. Converting a disused Victorian church in Wales. (R)
8.00 River Cottage Heroes. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall holds a celebratory dinner. (R)
9.00 The Million Pound Drop Live. Quiz show, presented by Davina McCall.
10.20 FILM: Far from Heaven. (2002) Period drama, starring Julianne Moore, Dennis Quaid and Patricia Clarkson.

12.30 Film: Swimfan. (2002) Thriller, starring Jesse Bradford. **1.55** Friday Night In. (R) **2.05** King Pylon. (R) **2.10** The Wrong Turn. (R) **2.15** The Dead Zone. (R) **2.55** Hill Street Blues. (R) **3.45** Ugly Betty. (R) **4.30** Wild Thing I Love You. (R) **5.25** Countdown. (R)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Meals in Moments. (R) **10.10** Family Food Fight. (R) **10.40** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.40** Extreme Fishing with Robson Green – At the Ends of the Earth. (R) **12.40** Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers. (R) **1.40** Film: A Lawless Street. (1955) Western, with Randolph Scott. **3.15** Film: Gunsmoke. (1953) Western, starring Audie Murphy. **4.50** Film: The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen. (2003) Comic-book fantasy adventure, with Sean Connery.

6.45 5 News Weekend.
6.50 NCIS. A murder is shown live online. (R)
7.40 CSI: Grissom's Greatest. Warrick tries to solve the murder of a gang member. (R)
8.35 CSI: Miami. A bungled Swat raid on a residence results in the death of an innocent man, and separate chains of evidence lead Horatio to a pair of equally viable suspects. (R)
9.35 CSI: NY. Mac reconnects with his first partner.
10.35 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. Jim Brass searches for his daughter's missing friend. (R)
11.35 Forensic Files. (R)

12.05 SuperCasino. **4.00** Rough Guide to Eco Escapes. (R) **4.10** Nick's Quest. (R) **4.35** HouseBusters. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

Digital

ITV2
2.45 American Idol **5.15** Film: Bean (1997) **7.00** Fiddles, Cheats & Scams **8.00** Homes from Hell **9.00** Britain's Got More Talent **10.00** Celebrity Juice **10.45** Film: Waterworld (1995)

ITV3
3.35 Agatha Christie's Poirot **5.50** Inspector Morse **7.55** Rosemary & Thyme **9.00** Foyle's War. A murder mars the victory celebration preparations. Last in the series. **11.00** Rebus

ITV4
11.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. Kings XI Punjab v Deccan Chargers and Delhi DareDevils v Pune Warriors. **8.00** British Superbike Championship Highlights **9.00** Police, Camera, Action! **10.00** Live Cycling. The seventh stage of the Tour of California.

BBC THREE
7.00 Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes **7.30** Doctor Who Confidential **8.15** Top Gear **9.00** Film: Lara Croft: Tomb Raider (2001) **10.35** Russell Howard Live: Dingledodies **11.35** Family Guy

BBC FOUR
7.00 The Secret Life of Elephants **8.00** Latin Music USA **9.00** Wallander **10.30** Julia Bradbury's Canal Walks **11.00** Arena: No Direction Home – Bob Dylan

E4
1.25 Hollyoaks **4.00** Made in Chelsea **5.00** Friends **6.00** Glee **7.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** How I Met Your Mother **9.00** Friends **10.00** Film: Assault on Precinct 13 (2005)

FILM4
3.15 Porridge (1979) **5.05** Catch That Kid (2004) **6.50** Attack the Block Special **6.55** The Italian Job (2003) **9.00** Alfie (1966) A cockney lothario leads a carefree life of casual sex with as many women as possible, until real life starts to intrude. Comedy drama, starring Michael Caine. **11.15** The Loved Ones (2009)

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Choice

LOUIS THEROUX: MIAMI MEGA JAIL

BBC2, 9.00pm

Part one of two. Louis Theroux examines life in Miami County Jail, where most of the inmates are awaiting trial. He begins by exploring the large cage-like dwellings on the fifth and sixth floor, which are home to many of the most volatile prisoners. The inmates' lives are governed by a gladiatorial code, leading to fights for food and status - a situation the guards say they are powerless to address. The concluding part will be shown on Sunday May 29.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** The Politics Show; Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.10** Formula 1: The Spanish Grand Prix Live. The fifth round of the season from Barcelona (Start-time 1.00pm). **3.15** Life of Riley. (R) **3.45** Bargain Hunt. **4.15** Points of View. **4.30** Songs of Praise. **5.05** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.30** Final Score. Round-up of football results.

6.15 RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2011. New series. A preview of the annual horticultural show.
7.00 Countryfile. Efforts to protect native bluebells in Goodwood, West Sussex.
8.00 British Academy Television Awards. Graham Norton hosts the annual awards ceremony at Grosvenor House Hotel in London, with shows including Downton Abbey, Sherlock, Misfits and The X Factor up for recognition.
10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
10.25 Match of the Day. Highlights of the final day of the Premier League.
11.55 FILM: Taffin. (1988) Action thriller, starring Pierce Brosnan, Alison Doody and Ray McAnally; Weatherview.

1.35 Sign Zone: The Apprentice. (R) **2.35** Holby City. (R) **3.35** MasterChef: The Final Three. (R) **4.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **10.00** Something for the Weekend. **11.30** Great British Menu. (R) **12.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **12.45** Priceless Antiques Roadshow. (R) **1.15** EastEnders. **3.10** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Bradford Bulls v Wigan Warriors (Kick-off 3.30pm). **5.30** Obama News Special.

6.00 Coast. How William the Conqueror taught the English to build castles.
6.10 Richard Hammond's Engineering Connections. Innovations allowing tankers to carry natural gas without risk of explosion.
7.00 Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson tests the Renaultsport Twingo 133 in Belfast, Richard Hammond tries his hand at airport vehicle racing, and Guy Ritchie is the Star in a Reasonably Priced Car. (R)
8.00 Britain's Secret Seas. Marine life and mysterious wrecks found in the seas surrounding Britain.
9.00 Louis Theroux: Miami Mega Jail. Part one of two. Louis Theroux examines life in Miami County Jail.
10.00 FILM: Zodiac. (2007) Premiere. Fact-based crime thriller, starring Jake Gyllenhaal.

12.30 The Shadow Line. (R) **1.30** French Open Tennis. **2.30** BBC News. **4.35** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **8.25** May the Best House Win. (R) **9.25** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **10.25** Sing If You Can. (R) **11.40** This Morning: Sunday. **12.40** Dinner Date. (R) **1.35** ITV News; Weather. **1.50** Film: Columbo: Suitable for Framing. (1971) Detective drama, with Peter Falk. **3.20** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **4.20** Film: Back to the Future Part III. (1990) Sci-fi comedy sequel, with Michael J Fox and Christopher Lloyd

6.30 Regional Programmes.
6.45 ITV News; Weather.
7.00 The Cube. The show's tallest-ever contestant takes up the challenge. Last in the series.
8.00 Vera. DCI Vera Stanhope finds a kindred spirit in the son of a murdered woman and comes to realise the key to the case is hidden deep in his memory. Last in the series.
10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather.
10.15 The Life and Loss of Karen Woo. Paddy Smith visits Afghanistan to retrace the steps of his fiancee Karen Woo, a doctor who was murdered in August 2010 while on a medical aid mission in the war-torn country.
11.30 Florida – Paradise Lost. (R)

12.25 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **2.00** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.45** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** Morning News.

Channel 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** That Paralympic Show. (R) **7.25** Freesports on 4. **7.55** T4: Friends. (R) **8.20** T4: Friends. (R) **8.45** T4: Hollyoaks. **11.20** T4: Being N-Dubz in America and Beyond. (R) **11.55** T4: Glee. (R) **12.55** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** Jamie's 30 Minute Meals. (R) **2.25** Jamie's 30 Minute Meals. (R) **2.55** Jamie's 30 Minute Meals. (R) **3.30** Jamie's 30 Minute Meals. (R) **4.00** Jamie's 30 Minute Meals. (R) **4.30** Deal or No Deal. **5.30** Time Team. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.
6.55 4thought.tv. A man recovering from brain surgery reflects on the healing power of humour.
7.00 Come Dine with Me. Four amateur chefs from Newcastle compete.
8.00 The Hotel. A local psychic hires a function room.
9.00 FILM: Orphan. (2009) Premiere. A couple adopt a nine-year-old Russian girl, but the wife begins to suspect the child may be dangerously disturbed. Horror, starring Vera Farmiga.
11.20 FILM: Vinyan. (2008) Premiere. Horror, with Emmanuelle Beart.

1.10 My New Brain. (R) **2.10** 24 Hours in A&E. (R) **3.05** Civilization: Is the West History? (R) **4.00** Wild Thing I Love You. (R) **4.55** Wogan's Perfect Recall. (R) **5.20** Countdown. (R)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **6.40** Miss Spider's Sunny Patch Friends. (R) **6.50** The Beeps. (R) **7.00** Mio Mao. (R) **7.10** Chiro. (R) **7.15** Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) **7.30** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.40** Hana's Helpline. (R) **7.50** Milkshake! Music Box. (R) **8.00** Little Princess. (R) **8.15** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.30** Mist: Sheepdog Tales. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Olivia. (R) **9.15** The Mr Men Show. (R) **9.30** Gerald McBoing Boing. (R) **10.00** Zoo Days. (R) **10.20** McFly on the Wall. **10.50** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **11.50** Emergency Bikers. (R) **12.50** Film: Wyoming Renegades. (1954) **2.15** Film: Ride to Hangman's Tree. (1967) **4.00** Film: Last of the Dogmen. (1995)

6.10 5 News Weekend.
6.15 FILM: Fun with Dick and Jane. (2005) Crime comedy remake, starring Jim Carrey and Tea Leoni.
8.00 FILM: Miss Congeniality. (2000) Comedy, starring Sandra Bullock.
10.15 FILM: Proof of Life. (2000) Action drama, starring Russell Crowe and Meg Ryan.

12.50 Rough Guide to Activity Holidays. (R) **1.10** SuperCasino. **4.00** Rough Guide to Weekend Breaks. (R) **4.10** Divine Designs. (R) **4.35** House Doctor. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

Digital

ITV2
4.00 The British Soap Awards 2011 **6.00** Britain's Got Talent **7.00** Animals Do the Funniest Things **8.00** Kerry Katona **9.00** Peter Andre **10.00** Film: Baby Mama (2008)

ITV3
2.10 Film: Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (1971) **4.10** Inspector Morse **6.15** Mr Bean **6.50** Agatha Christie's Poirot **8.00** The Best of the Royal Variety **9.00** Film: Tin Cup (1996) **11.45** Film: Inside I'm Dancing (2004)

ITV4
11.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. Royal Challengers Bangalore v Chennai Super Kings and Kolkata Knight Riders v Mumbai Indians. **8.00** Minder **9.00** Police, Camera, Action! **9.30** Live Cycling. The final stage of the Tour of California.

BBC THREE
7.00 Formula 1: The Spanish Grand Prix Highlights **8.00** Doctor Who **8.45** Doctor Who Confidential **9.00** Little Britain **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** American Dad! **11.30** Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps

BBC FOUR
7.00 A History of Christianity **8.00** The Secret Life of the National Grid **9.00** Enid **10.25** Bookmark **11.05** Tangled Up with Dylan: The Ballad of AJ Weberman

E4
3.00 Jo Frost: Extreme Parental Guidance **4.00** Film: Nine Months (1995) **6.00** Friends **7.00** 90210 **8.00** Friends **9.00** Desperate Housewives **11.00** Being Erica **11.55** The Big Bang Theory

FILM4
3.05 Girls! Girls! Girls! (1962) **5.00** Attack the Block Special **5.10** The Duellists (1977) **7.10** The Italian Job (1969) **9.00** Alfie (2004) **11.05** Candy (2006)

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the pulse

Monday

BBC1 **6.00** Breakfast. **9.15** Fake Britain. **10.00** Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. **11.00** Don't Get Done, Get Dom; (R) BBC News; Weather. **11.45** Bargain Hunt. (R) **12.30** RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2011. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.30** Regional News; Weather. **1.45** Doctors. **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.00** BBC News; Weather; Regional News. **3.05** CBBC. **5.15** Weakest Link. **6.00** BBC News. **6.30** Regional News Programmes; Weather. **7.00** The One Show. **7.30** RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2011; BBC News; Regional News. **8.00** EastEnders. **8.30** Fifa: The Final Whistle? – Panorama. **9.00** Supersize Ambulance. **10.00** BBC News. **10.25** Regional News; Weather. **10.35** A Question of Sport. **11.05** The Graham Norton Show. (R) **11.50** Film: Dan in Real Life. (2007); Weatherview. **1.30** Sign Zone: MasterChef: The Final Three. (R) **3.30** One Man and His Campervan. (R) **4.00** BBC News.

BBC2 **6.00** CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **8.30** CBeebies. **11.35** The Pink Panther Show. (R) **12.00** Daily Politics. **12.30** GMT with George Alagiah. **1.00** Diagnosis Murder. (R) **1.45** To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) **2.15** Animal 24:7. (R) **3.00** Helicopter Heroes. (R) **3.45** Flog It! **4.30** The Hairy Bikers' Food Tour of Britain. (R) **5.15** Cash in the Celebrity Attic. **6.00** Eggheads. **6.30** Great British Menu. **7.00** The Story of Ireland. **8.00** RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2011. **9.00** All Watched Over by Machines of Loving Grace. **10.00** Never Mind the Buzzcocks. (R) **10.30** Newsnight; Weather. **11.20** Louis Theroux: Miami Mega Jail. (R) **12.20** Richard Hammond's Engineering Connections. (R) **1.10** French Open Tennis. **2.10** BBC News.

ITV1 **6.00** Daybreak. **8.30** Lorraine. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **10.30** This Morning. **12.30** Loose Women. **1.30** ITV News; Weather. **1.55** Regional News; Weather. **2.00** 60 Minute Makeover. (R) **3.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. **3.59** Regional Weather. **4.00** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.00** Britain's Best Dish. **6.00** Regional News; Weather. **6.30** ITV News; Weather. **7.00** Emmerdale. **7.30** Coronation Street. **8.00** The Dales. **8.30** Coronation Street. **9.00** Strangeways. **10.00** ITV News at Ten; Weather. **10.30** Regional News; Weather. **10.35** Film: Tango & Cash. (1989) Action adventure, with Sylvester Stallone and Kurt Russell. **12.25** The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **2.30** UEFA Champions League Weekly. **2.55** ITV Nightscreen. **4.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **5.30** ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 **6.05** Sali Mali. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Freshly Squeezed. **7.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Frasier. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Friends. (R) **9.25** Accidentally on Purpose. **9.50** Location, Location, Location. (R) **10.55** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. (R) **12.00** Channel 4 News Summary. **12.05** The Home Show. (R) **1.00** Film: A Town Like Alice. (1956) Wartime drama, starring Virginia McKenna and Peter Finch. **3.10** Countdown. **4.00** Deal or No Deal. **5.00** Celebrity Five Go To. **6.00** The Simpsons. (R) **6.30** Hollyoaks. **7.00** Channel 4 News. **7.55** 4thought.tv. **8.00** Four Rooms. **9.00** The Secret Millionaire. **10.00** Jamie's Food Revolution Hits Hollywood. **11.05** Misfits. **12.05** UK & Ireland Poker Tour. **1.05** Freesports on 4. (R) **1.35** The Grid. (R) **2.00** British Formula 3 International Series. (R) **2.30** KOTV Boxing Weekly. **2.55** AVP Beach Volleyball. (R) **3.50** Catching the Impossible. (R) **4.40** Full Metal Challenge. (R) **5.35** Brief Encounters of the Sporting Mind: Rally Driving. (R) **5.45** Yo Gabba Gabba! (R)

Channel 5 **6.00** Milkshake! **9.15** The Wright Stuff. **11.05** Stansted: The Inside Story. (R) **12.00** Meals in Moments. (R) **12.10** 5 News Lunchtime. **12.20** Law & Order. (R) **1.15** Home and Away. **1.45** Neighbours. **2.15** The Vanessa Show. **3.05** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **3.10** Film: Bridge of Time. (1997) **5.00** 5 News at 5; Weather. **5.30** Neighbours. (R) **6.00** Home and Away. (R) **6.25** OK! TV. **7.00** 5 News at 7. **7.30** How Do They Do It?; (R) 5 News Update. **8.00** The Gadget Show; 5 News at 9. **9.00** The Hotel Inspector. **10.00** There's Something About Josie. **11.00** Film: Enough. (2002) Thriller, starring Jennifer Lopez. **1.15** SuperCasino. **4.00** Meals in Moments. (R) **4.10** How Not to Decorate. (R) **4.55** Rough Guide to Weekend Breaks. (R) **5.10** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.35** House Doctor. (R)

Tuesday

BBC1 **6.00** Breakfast. **9.15** Fake Britain. **10.00** Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. **11.00** Don't Get Done, Get Dom; (R) BBC News; Weather. **11.45** Bargain Hunt. **12.30** RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2011. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.30** Regional News; Weather. **1.45** Doctors. **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.00** BBC News; Weather; Regional News. **3.05** CBBC. **5.15** Weakest Link. **6.00** BBC News; Weather. **6.30** Regional News Programmes; Weather. **7.00** The One Show. **7.30** EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News. **8.00** Holby City. **9.00** Crimewatch. **10.00** BBC News. **10.25** Regional News; Weather; National Lottery Update. **10.35** Crimewatch Update. **10.45** The Lock Up. (R) **11.15** Traffic Cops; (R) Weatherview. **12.20** Sign Zone: Children's Craniofacial Surgery. (R) **1.20** The Hairy Bikers: Mums Know Best. (R) **2.20** Churches: How to Read Them. (R) **2.50** Great British Railway Journeys. (R) **3.50** BBC News.

BBC2 **6.00** CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **8.30** CBeebies. **11.35** The Pink Panther Show. (R) **12.00** Daily Politics. **12.30** GMT with George Alagiah. **1.00** Diagnosis Murder. (R) **1.45** To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) **2.15** Animal 24:7. (R) **3.00** Helicopter Heroes. (R) **3.45** Flog It! **4.30** The Hairy Bikers' Food Tour of Britain. (R) **5.15** Cash in the Celebrity Attic. **6.00** Eggheads. **6.30** Great British Menu. **7.00** Britain's Next Big Thing. **8.00** RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2011. **9.00** The Country House Revealed. **10.00** Later Live – with Jools Holland. **10.30** Newsnight; Weather. **11.20** Our 'Enry: A Tribute to Sir Henry Cooper. (R) **12.05** French Open Tennis. **1.05** BBC News. **3.50** Close.

ITV1 **6.00** Daybreak. **8.30** Lorraine. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **10.30** This Morning. **12.30** Loose Women. **1.30** ITV News; Weather. **1.55** Regional News; Weather. **2.00** 60 Minute Makeover. (R) **3.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. **3.59** Regional Weather. **4.00** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.00** Britain's Best Dish. **6.00** Regional News; Weather. **6.30** ITV News; Weather. **7.00** Emmerdale. **7.30** Military Driving School. **8.00** Prince Philip at 90. **9.00** Home Is Where the Heart Is. **10.00** ITV News at Ten; Weather. **10.30** Regional News; Weather. **10.35** Film: Freeze Frame. (2004) Thriller, starring Lee Evans. **12.25** The Zone; ITV News. **2.30** Crossing Jordan. **3.15** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Freshly Squeezed. **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Frasier. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Friends. (R) **9.25** Accidentally on Purpose. **9.50** Location, Location, Location. (R) **10.55** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. (R) **12.00** Channel 4 News Summary. **12.05** The Home Show. (R) **1.00** Film: A Town Like Alice. (1956) Wartime drama, starring Virginia McKenna and Peter Finch. **3.10** Countdown. **4.00** Deal or No Deal. **5.00** Celebrity Five Go To. **6.00** The Simpsons. (R) **6.30** Hollyoaks. **7.00** Channel 4 News. **7.55** 4thought.tv. **8.00** Four Rooms. **9.00** The Secret Millionaire. **10.00** Jamie's Food Revolution Hits Hollywood. **11.05** Misfits. **12.05** UK & Ireland Poker Tour. **1.05** Freesports on 4. (R) **1.35** The Grid. (R) **2.00** British Formula 3 International Series. (R) **2.30** KOTV Boxing Weekly. **2.55** AVP Beach Volleyball. (R) **3.50** Catching the Impossible. (R) **4.40** Full Metal Challenge. (R) **5.35** Brief Encounters of the Sporting Mind: Rally Driving. (R) **5.45** Yo Gabba Gabba! (R)

Channel 5 **6.00** Milkshake! **9.15** The Wright Stuff. **11.05** Stansted: The Inside Story. (R) **12.00** Meals in Moments. (R) **12.10** 5 News Lunchtime. **12.20** Law & Order. (R) **1.15** Home and Away. **1.45** Neighbours. **2.15** The Vanessa Show. **3.05** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **3.10** Film: Starting Over. (2007) Romantic drama, starring Suzanne von Borsody and Iain Glen. **5.00** 5 News at 5; Weather. **5.30** Neighbours. (R) **6.00** Home and Away. (R) **6.25** OK! TV. **7.00** 5 News at 7. **7.30** Zoo Days: (R) 5 News Update. **8.00** Supersize Grime; 5 News at 9. **9.00** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. **10.00** CSI: Miami. (R) **10.55** CSI: NY. (R) **11.50** CSI: NY. (R) **12.50** SuperCasino. **4.00** Meals in Moments. (R) **4.10** How Not to Decorate. (R) **4.55** Rough Guide to Islands. (R) **5.10** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.35** House Doctor. (R)

Wednesday

BBC1 **6.00** Breakfast. **9.15** Fake Britain. **10.00** Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. **11.00** Don't Get Done, Get Dom; (R) BBC News; Weather. **11.45** Bargain Hunt. (R) **12.30** RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2011. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.30** Regional News; Weather. **1.45** Doctors. **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.00** BBC News; Weather; Regional News. **3.05** President Obama at Westminster. **4.30** Flog It! (R) **5.15** Weakest Link. (R) **6.00** BBC News; Weather. **6.30** Regional News Programmes; Weather. **7.00** The One Show. **7.30** Waterloo Road; BBC News; Regional News. **8.30** Life of Riley. **9.00** The Apprentice. **10.00** BBC News. **10.25** Regional News; Weather. **10.35** The National Lottery Wednesday Night Draws. **10.45** Not Going Out. (R) **11.15** Film: It's a Boy Girl Thing. (2006) Romantic comedy, with Samaire Armstrong; National Lottery Update; Weatherview. **12.50** Sign Zone: See Hear. (R) **1.20** Watchdog. (R) **2.20** The British at Work. (R) **3.20** One Man and His Campervan. (R) **3.50** BBC News.

BBC2 **6.00** CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **8.30** CBeebies. **11.35** Film: Crossfire. (1947) Drama, starring Robert Mitchum. **1.00** See Hear. **1.30** To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) **2.15** Animal 24:7. (R) **3.00** CBBC. **5.15** Cash in the Celebrity Attic. (R) **6.00** Eggheads. **6.30** Great British Menu. **7.00** The Sounds of Hugh Laurie: A Culture Show Special. **7.30** Two Greedy Italians. **8.30** RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2011. **10.00** The Apprentice: You're Fired! **10.30** Newsnight; Weather. **11.20** Stewart Lee's Comedy Vehicle. **11.50** The Sounds of Hugh Laurie: A Culture Show Special. (R) **12.20** French Open Tennis. **1.20** BBC News. **3.50** Close.

ITV1 **6.00** Daybreak. **8.30** Lorraine. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **10.30** This Morning. **12.30** Loose Women. **1.30** ITV News; Weather. **1.55** Regional News; Weather. **2.00** 60 Minute Makeover. (R) **3.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. **3.59** Regional Weather. **4.00** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.00** Britain's Best Dish. **6.00** Regional News; Weather. **6.30** ITV News; Weather. **7.00** Emmerdale. **7.30** Poms in Paradise. **8.00** Midsomer Murders. **10.00** ITV News at Ten; Weather. **10.30** Regional News; Weather. **10.35** Cops with Cameras. (R) **11.35** Long Lost Family. (R) **12.30** The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **2.35** Film: Space Jam. (1996) Live action and animated comedy, with Michael Jordan. **4.00** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Freshly Squeezed. **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Frasier. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Friends. (R) **9.25** Accidentally on Purpose. **9.50** Location, Location, Location. (R) **10.55** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. (R) **12.00** Channel 4 News Summary. **12.05** The Home Show. (R) **1.05** Film: Kidnapped. (1971) Period adventure, starring Michael Caine. **3.10** Countdown. **4.00** Deal or No Deal. **5.00** Celebrity Five Go To. **6.00** The Simpsons. (R) **6.30** Hollyoaks. **7.00** Channel 4 News. **7.55** 4thought.tv. **8.00** Film: Three in a Bed. **9.00** Breaking a Female Paedophile Ring. **10.00** World's Tallest Man: Looking for Love. **11.10** The Secret Millionaire. (R) **12.10** The Film Show. **12.45** Music on 4: The Great Escape Festival 2011. **1.15** Music on 4: The Album Chart Show Spotlight: Lady Gaga Special. **1.30** Music on 4: 4Play: Kitty, Daisy and Lewis. **1.40** Music on 4: JD Set Presents. (R) **1.50** The Model Agency. (R) **2.45** Emily's Song. (R) **3.00** Unreported World. (R) **3.30** Dispatches: The Truth About Your Dentist. (R) **4.25** Wild Thing I Love You. (R) **5.20** Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 **6.00** Milkshake! **9.15** The Wright Stuff. **11.05** Stansted: The Inside Story. (R) **12.00** Meals in Moments. (R) **12.10** 5 News Lunchtime. **12.20** Law & Order. (R) **1.15** Home and Away. **1.45** Neighbours. **2.15** The Vanessa Show. **3.05** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **3.10** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **3.15** Film: McBride: It's Murder, Madam. (2005) Crime drama, starring John Larroquette. **5.00** 5 News at 5; Weather. **5.30** Neighbours. (R) **6.00** Home and Away. (R) **6.25** OK! TV. **7.00** 5 News at 7. **7.30** Pawn Stars; 5 News Update. **8.00** Giant Animal Moves; 5 News at 9. **9.00** NCIS. **10.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent. (R) **10.55** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. (R) **11.55** Poker: Aussie Millions. **12.50** SuperCasino. **4.00** Meals in Moments. (R) **4.10** Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) **4.55** Rough Guide to Adventures. (R) **5.10** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.35** House Doctor. (R)

Thursday

BBC1 **6.00** Breakfast. **9.15** Fake Britain. **10.00** Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. **11.00** Don't Get Done, Get Dom; (R) BBC News; Weather. **11.45** Bargain Hunt. **12.30** RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2011. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.30** Regional News; Weather. **1.45** Doctors. **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.00** BBC News; Weather; Regional News. **3.05** CBBC. **5.15** Weakest Link. (R) **6.00** BBC News; Weather. **6.30** Regional News Programmes; Weather. **7.00** The One Show. **7.30** EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News. **8.00** Watchdog. **9.00** Inside the Human Body. **10.00** BBC News. **10.25** Regional News; Weather. **10.35** Question Time. **11.35** This Week; Holiday Weatherview. **12.25** Sign Zone: Fifa: The Final Whistle? – Panorama. (R) **12.55** Countryfile. (R) **1.55** Britain's Next Big Thing. (R) **2.55** DIY SOS: The Big Build. (R) **3.55** BBC News.

BBC2 **6.00** CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **8.30** CBeebies. **11.35** Film: The Locket. (1946) Melodrama, starring Robert Mitchum. **1.00** Diagnosis Murder. (R) **1.45** To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) **2.15** Animal 24:7. (R) **3.00** Helicopter Heroes. (R) **3.45** Flog It! **4.30** The Hairy Bikers' Food Tour of Britain. (R) **5.15** Cash in the Celebrity Attic. (R) **6.00** Eggheads. **6.30** Great British Menu. **7.00** The Culture Show. **8.00** RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2011. **9.00** The Shadow Line. **10.00** Psychoville 2. **10.30** Newsnight; Weather. **11.20** Golf: The PGA Championship. **12.20** French Open Tennis. **1.20** The Culture Show. (R) **2.20** BBC News.

ITV1 **6.00** Daybreak. **8.30** Lorraine. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **10.30** This Morning. **12.30** Loose Women. **1.30** ITV News; Weather. **1.55** Regional News; Weather. **2.00** 60 Minute Makeover. (R) **3.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. **3.59** Regional Weather. **4.00** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.00** Britain's Best Dish. **6.00** Regional News; Weather. **6.30** ITV News; Weather. **7.00** Emmerdale. **7.30** Too Old to Be a Mum?: Tonight. **8.00** Emmerdale. **8.30** Coronation Street. **9.00** Long Lost Family. **10.00** ITV News at Ten; Weather. **10.30** Regional News; Weather. **10.35** Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Des O'Connor. (R) **11.35** Amanda Holden's Fantasy Lives. (R) **12.30** The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **2.30** Too Old to Be a Mum?: Tonight. (R) **2.55** ITV Nightscreen. **4.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **5.30** ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Freshly Squeezed. **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Frasier. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Friends. (R) **9.25** Accidentally on Purpose. **9.50** Location, Location, Location. (R) **10.55** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. (R) **12.00** Channel 4 News Summary. **12.05** Paralympic World Cup. **1.05** My Eden. (R) **1.10** Film: White Feather. (1955) **3.10** Countdown. **4.00** Deal or No Deal. **5.00** Celebrity Five Go To. **6.00** The Simpsons. (R) **6.30** Hollyoaks. **7.00** Channel 4 News. **7.55** 4thought.tv. **8.00** Three in a Bed. **9.00** Breaking a Female Paedophile Ring. **10.00** World's Tallest Man: Looking for Love. **11.10** The Secret Millionaire. (R) **12.10** The Film Show. **12.45** Music on 4: The Great Escape Festival 2011. **1.15** Music on 4: The Album Chart Show Spotlight: Lady Gaga Special. **1.30** Music on 4: 4Play: Kitty, Daisy and Lewis. **1.40** Music on 4: JD Set Presents. (R) **1.50** The Model Agency. (R) **2.45** Emily's Song. (R) **3.00** Unreported World. (R) **3.30** Dispatches: The Truth About Your Dentist. (R) **4.25** Wild Thing I Love You. (R) **5.20** Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 **6.00** Milkshake! **9.15** The Wright Stuff. **11.05** Stansted: The Inside Story. (R) **12.00** Meals in Moments. (R) **12.10** 5 News. **12.20** Law & Order. (R) **1.15** Home and Away. **1.45** Neighbours. **2.15** The Vanessa Show. **3.05** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **3.10** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **3.15** Film: The Sign of Four. (2001) **5.00** 5 News at 5. **5.30** Neighbours. (R) **6.00** Home and Away. (R) **6.25** OK! TV. **6.55** 5 News. **7.00** Cricket. **8.00** Emergency Bikers; 5 News. **9.00** Extreme Fishing with Robson Green – At the Ends of the Earth. **10.00** Impossible? **11.05** Banged Up Abroad. **12.05** SuperCasino. **4.00** Meals in Moments. (R) **4.10** Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) **4.55** Rough Guide to Activity Holidays. (R) **5.10** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.35** House Doctor. (R)

Friday

BBC1 **6.00** Breakfast. **9.15** Fake Britain. **10.00** Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. **11.00** Don't Get Done, Get Dom; (R) BBC News; Weather. **11.45** Bargain Hunt. (R) **12.30** RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2011. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.30** Regional News; Weather. **1.45** Doctors. **2.15** Escape to the Country. **3.00** BBC News; Weather; Regional News. **3.05** CBBC. **5.15** Weakest Link. **6.00** BBC News; Weather. **6.30** Regional News Programmes; Weather. **7.00** The One Show; BBC News; Regional News. **8.00** EastEnders. **8.30** A Question of Sport. (R) **9.00** Have I Got News for You. **9.30** Outnumbered. **10.00** BBC News. **10.25** Regional News; Weather. **10.35** The Graham Norton Show. **11.20** The National Lottery Friday Night Draws. **11.30** Film: The Rainmaker. (1997) **1.35** The One Show; (R) Weatherview. **2.40** Sign Zone: Monty Don's Italian Gardens. (R) **3.40** The Hairy Bikers: Mums Know Best. (R) **4.40** BBC News.

BBC2 **6.00** CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **8.30** CBeebies. **11.35** Film: The Racket. (1951) **1.00** Diagnosis Murder. (R) **1.45** To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) **2.15** Animal 24:7. (R) **3.00** Helicopter Heroes. (R) **3.45** Flog It! **4.30** The Hairy Bikers' Food Tour of Britain. (R) **5.15** Cash in the Celebrity Attic. (R) **6.00** Eggheads. **6.30** Great British Menu. **7.00** Windfarm Wars. **8.00** RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2011. **9.30** Paul Merton's Birth of Hollywood. **10.30** Newsnight. **11.00** The Book Review Show; Weather. **11.50** Golf: The PGA Championship. **12.20** Later with Jools Holland. **1.25** French Open Tennis. **2.25** Film: The Haunted House of Horror. (1969) **3.55** Close.

ITV1 **6.00** Daybreak. **8.30** Lorraine. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **10.30** This Morning. **12.30** Loose Women. **1.30** ITV News; Weather. **1.55** Regional News; Weather. **2.00** 60 Minute Makeover. (R) **3.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. **3.59** Regional Weather. **4.00** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.00** Britain's Best Dish: The Final. **6.00** Regional News; Weather. **6.30** ITV News; Weather. **7.00** Emmerdale. **7.30** Coronation Street. **8.00** Baboons with Bill Bailey. **8.30** Coronation Street. **9.00** Paul O'Grady Live. **10.00** ITV News at Ten; Weather. **10.30** Regional News; Weather. **10.35** An Audience with Neil Diamond. (R) **11.35** The Cube. (R) **12.30** The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **2.30** Film: The Hitcher. (1986) **4.10** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 **6.05** Sali Mali. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Freshly Squeezed. **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Friends. (R) **9.25** Accidentally on Purpose. **9.55** Location, Location, Location. (R) **10.55** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. (R) **12.00** News Summary. **12.05** Paralympic World Cup. **1.05** River Cottage Bites. (R) **1.20** Film: The Frogmen. (1951) Second World War thriller, starring Richard Widmark. **3.10** Countdown. **4.00** Deal or No Deal. **5.00** Celebrity Five Go To. **6.00** The Simpsons. (R) **6.30** Hollyoaks. **7.00** Channel 4 News. **7.30** Unreported World. **7.55** 4thought.tv. **8.00** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. **9.00** The Million Pound Drop Live. **10.25** That Peter Kay Thing. (R) **11.55** PhoneShop. **11.30** The Ricky Gervais Show. **12.00** Music on 4: Jessie J Live in London. **12.35** Mercury Prize Sessions. **12.50** The Album Chart Show Spotlight: Lady Gaga Special. (R) **1.05** 4Play: The Pierces. **1.20** Much Ado About a Minor Ting. (R) **1.50** Dish. (R) **2.00** Daddy. (R) **2.05** My Name Is Earl. (R) **2.55** The Dead Zone. (R) **3.35** Hill Street Blues. (R) **4.25** Wild Thing I Love You. (R) **5.25** Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 **6.00** Milkshake! **9.15** The Wright Stuff. **11.05** Stansted: The Inside Story. **12.00** The Family Recipe. **12.10** 5 News Lunchtime. **12.20** Law & Order. **1.15** Home and Away. **1.45** Neighbours. **2.15** The Vanessa Show. **3.05** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **3.10** Film: Killer Flood: The Day the Dam Broke. (2003) Thriller, starring Joe Lando. **5.00** 5 News at 5; Weather. **5.30** Neighbours. **6.00** Home and Away. **6.25** OK! TV. **6.55** 5 News at 7. **7.00** Cricket. **8.00** Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers; 5 News at 9. **9.00** The Mentalist. **10.00** Law & Order. **10.55** CSI: Miami. (R) **11.50** Rough Guide to Adventures. **12.10** SuperCasino. **4.05** Motorsport Mundial. **4.30** Nick's Quest. **4.55** Rough Guide to Short Breaks. (R) **5.10** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.35** House Doctor. (R)

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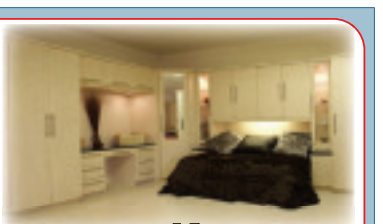

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No.117

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

	11		2		2	25 H	7	22	25	7	4	21
20	14	5	18			10 O		14		16		4
	23		1	10	15	11	25	2		15	2	7
9	7	14	24					20		14		14
			17		10	22	7	4	14	20	7	21
10	6	7	12	2		17		12		18		8
6		17			3	15	11			10		15
2		7		7		26		1	14	13	14	17
7	13	19	7	17	10	22	7		26			
4		14		7					15	4	11	7
19	7	20		19	10	9	7	17	2		4	
7		10		7		14			7	12	7	2
21	14	4	24	13	7	2	2		21		9	

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10 O	23
11	24
12	25 H
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
N	D	K	Y	T	L	A	Z	I	C	W	B	P
14	15	16	17	18	9	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
M	X	O	U	E	R	J	H	V	Q	S	G	F

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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Children take to the back street (4)
3. A drop of water (8)
8. Praise a noble-man, we hear (4)
9. A game involving more of us (8)
11. Getting into deep water? (7,5)
13. One's double in figures (6)
14. One of eight requires medical attention (6)
17. He may have stacks of work to do! (7,5)
20. Though he's not there, he's proverbially conspicuous! (8)
21. A way to raise money from a chess set (4)
22. All in the very one-sided event (8)
23. No charge is made, so get release (4)

Down

1. No more to discuss? (4,4)
2. He cares for others (7)
4. Refrains from being so avid, perhaps (6)
5. An entertaining job for a girl who likes to travel (3-7)
6. Ornament held by an ambassador naturally (5)
7. A growing source of fuel (4)
10. What journalists earn? (5,5)
12. Possibly press one for an answer (8)
15. Begin with a tune outside (4,3)
16. A fellow takes me in and gets lower (6)
18. Hates having to change in a hurry (5)
19. One gets right in front - to win it! (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Blister (4)
3. Incarcerate (8)
8. Reproduce (4)
9. Obviate (8)
11. Flattery (12)
13. Sinew (6)
14. Improved (6)
17. Cruelty (12)
20. Plausibly deceptive (8)
21. Skilled (4)
22. Longer (8)
23. Exploit (4)

Down

1. Speak ill of (8)
2. Interpret (7)
4. Sullen (6)
5. Requital (10)
6. Reject with disdain (5)
7. Require (4)
10. Warning (10)
12. Outlook (8)
15. Quiver (7)
16. Fame (6)
18. Unfit (5)
19. Small island (4)

1		2		■	3	4		5		6		7
	■		■	■			■		■		■	
8				■	9							
	■		■	10		■		■		■		■
11												
	■		■		■		■		■	■	■	12
13						■	14			15		
	■	■	■		■	16	■		■		■	
■	17	18										
19	■		■		■		■		■		■	
20								■	21			
	■		■		■		■	■	■		■	
22								■	23			

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Appropriate; 9 Unravel; 10 Lynch; 11 Talon; 12 Sprouts; 13 On view; 15 Warsaw; 18 Enchant; 20 Alibi; 22 Rains; 23 Compere; 24 Tennis balls. Down: 2 Peril; 3 Revenue; 4 Polish; 5 Idler; 6 Tongues; 7 Auctioneers; 8 Ghost writer; 14 Vaccine; 16 Anaemia; 17 Stocks; 19 Arson; 21 Ideal. QUICK - Across: 1 Grease-paint; 9 Isolate; 10 Throw; 11 Fated; 12 Garbage; 13 Lament; 15 Asleep; 18 Omnibus; 20 Trout; 22 Extra; 23 Adamant; 24 As You Like It. Down: 2 Roost; 3 Abandon; 4 Energy; 5 Alter; 6 Narrate; 7 Eiffel Tower; 8 Sweet Potato; 14 Minutes; 16 Set-back; 17 Assail; 19 Beano; 21 Okapi.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

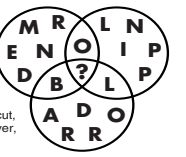
				3	7			
3				6	5		1	
4	9	6			1		7	5
	5			2				
1		2			3	7		6
							9	
6			1			4	3	9
	1		3	5				7
		7	8		9			

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	9	2	4	6	6	5	1	7
1	4	7	2	3	5	6	8	9
8	5	6	9	7	1	3	2	4
2	6	9	8	5	3	7	4	1
5	8	1	6	4	7	9	3	2
4	7	3	1	9	2	8	5	6
9	2	8	5	6	4	1	7	3
6	3	4	7	1	8	2	9	5
7	1	5	3	2	9	4	6	8

Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION: The letter represented by the question mark is B. Bowlcut, bouffant, combover, all hairstyles

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thechronicle

Staff member Sally Farnell, with children, Zac Gannicliffe, aged three, Jasraj Dhillon, three, Amrit Jagpal, three, and Ronak Mann, four, mark their success

'Outstanding' rating

AN Oldbury after-school club and pre-school's early years provision has been rated as "outstanding" by Ofsted inspectors.

Afterwoods Out of School Club and Tiny Woods Pre-School, at Lightwoods Primary School, Castle Road East, were inspected in Marchby Ofsted inspector Edgar Hastings. The club accommodates 40 children before and after school during term time and runs a play scheme during the holidays. There are 37 on the pre-school roll.

Mr Hastings said: "The setting ensures that all children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, make excellent progress in their learning and development."

Headteacher Elaine Bowen said: "We are delighted. We have worked very hard particularly on our outdoor learning environment. We have two resident chickens that lay eggs for us each day and we are just about to build a forest school.

Virgin in search for apprentices

VIRGIN Media has launched a search to find around 300 new apprentices across the UK – 100 more than last year.

The search begins in Birmingham where the company is looking to recruit bright sparks eager to work hard and develop a new set of skills.

Apprenticeships offer young people a fast track route into the working world. They provide a means of gaining skills, qualifications and hands on work experience whilst earning money at the same time.

The new field technician apprentices at Virgin Media will work towards the company's own, nationally recognised QCF Level 2 (equivalent to NVQ Level 2) in Communication Technology. The qualification has been designed to help the apprentices develop a mix of technical and customer services skills in a very short time frame. Apprentices gain hands on experience and, when qualified, will be part of a dedicated team responsible for installing and maintaining Virgin Media's broadband, phone and digital TV service for customers in Birmingham.

For further details visit the website at careers.virginmedia.com/apprenticeship/

Tributes to theatre's popular set builder

NINETY people celebrated the life of a theatre set builder from Sutton Coldfield who died last month.

Family and friends joined members of Highbury Theatre, in Boldmere, at the funeral of Bernard Cope, on April 7 at Streetly Crematorium.

The Eureka Jazz Band, from Moseley, lead the cortege from the gates to the chapel before the remembrance service continued at the theatre.

Mr Cope, who died on March 25 aged 72, suffered ill health for many years and was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer last Christmas.

He was first introduced to the theatre by his daughter Clare, ten years ago, after the death of his wife Doris, who he had been married to for more than 40 years. During his time as crew member he was assigned as set designer and stage manager before being appointed head of construction in 2009.

Clare said: "My dad never complained about any of his ailments and joked that he had certainly got his money's worth out of the NHS.

"He was the kindest, mild-mannered and most polite person – with a cheeky sense of humour – who you could ever meet.

"The funeral turned out to be everything we could have hoped for. Dad would have loved being surrounded by all the people who meant the most to him in the place that had become a second home to him."

He leaves behind three children, six grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Black Country Communion's second album is out next month

Black Country misses out on Communion

HEAVY rock supergroup Black Country Communion, who made their UK concert debut last Christmas at Wolverhampton Civic Hall, release their second album next month.

The band fronted by Cannock-raised rock star Glenn Hughes was an instant success with its self-titled debut album, which draws on traditional hard rock values, released in September last year.

It stormed to No1 in the UK Rock Album Chart.

The group also features American blues-rock guitar hero Joe Bonamassa, Dudley-born drummer Jason Bonham (son of the late Led Zeppelin stickman John Bonham), and American keyboardist Derek Sherinian.

The new album, entitled 2, is released across Europe on June 13 by Mascot Records. Bonamassa also recently released his 12th album, called Dust Bowl.

Black Country Communion have a short UK tour in July but don't include any West Midlands dates, the nearest being Manchester Academy on July 30.

However, Glenn Hughes will be in concert at Birmingham Town Hall on Sunday, May 29, highlighting music from his solo career plus his back catalogue with Trapeze and Deep Purple.

Tickets cost £22 (plus booking fee) available on 0121 780 3333.

Reviews

The City Madam, Swan Theatre, Stratford

THE FEAR of financial ruin and loss of social status permeates Philip Massinger's 380-year-old romp, giving this savage comedy a sharp contemporary edge.

The Royal Shakespeare Company has gathered a formidably talented group of actors at the Swan (many of them also appearing in Gregory Doran's Cardenio) and they relish this ruthless and rollicking satire on a society riven by rivalry between the newly rich merchant class and the old aristocracy.

Massinger wrote for Shakespeare's former theatre company The King's Men.

He was a scattergun satirist, who in this play also takes a pop at astrologers, brutal law enforcers and includes possibly the first dig at the Americans.

The convoluted plot centres on Luke Frugal, who has wasted his fortune and now works as a servant in his rich brother's household, where he is meanly treated by his sister-and-law and nieces.

Behind his reformed exterior, he plots with servants to defraud his brother.

Meanwhile, that brother, made weary by his haughty wife's financial excesses and suspicious of his brother's pious new image, pretends to retire to a monastery but returns with his daughters' two rejected suitors in disguise as American Indians (seeking a Christian education) to observe how Luke uses his new found power and fortune.

Dominic Hill's fast-paced, 17th Century costumed production hinges on the role of Luke, and Jo Stone-Fewings emerges from the RSC ranks with a performance of such charisma, energy and passion that it should take his career to a new level.

At first he wins the audience's sympathy but, with the phrase "religion, conscience, charity, farewell", wealth and opportunity turns him into a vengeful silver-tongued devil before our very eyes in a production that also makes much use of magic tricks and illusion.

Picture by Elle Kurtz/RSC

Jo Stone- Fewings as Luke Frugal and Sara Crowe as Lady Frugal

Lady Frugal (Sara Crowe) and her daughters (Lucy Briggs-Owen, Matti Houghton) are a monstrous flutter of fans and satin gowns, whilst Nicholas Day brings an engaging fruitiness to the role of elderly aristocrat Lord Lacy.

The broadest comedy comes from the suitors, Alex Hassell as the screeching dandy Sir Maurice and Felix Hughes as his rough bluff northern rival Mr Plenty. Christopher Ettridge becomes an audience favourite as the sharp-tongued servant Holdfast. Pippa Nixon got a big laugh as the Cockney chav prostitute Shave'em, leafing through a Royal Wedding souvenir copy of Hello magazine to find the perfect new carriage.

A puppet show laid on by the 'Indians' seemed a superfluous addition to a three hour play (including interval) but was certainly ingenious.

Audiences may bridle at the play's neat moralistic conclusion, which has the womenfolk promising to be obedient and modest, whilst Luke Frugal is stripped to his underpants, spat upon and cast out in the snow.

But when it deals with greed and pretension, The City Madam is a period piece with plenty to say to a modern audience.

It continues until October 4.

Leon Burakowski

Olly Murs, NIA Birmingham

OLLY Murs took Birmingham by storm at his sell-out show at the NIA on Sunday.

He shot to fame after appearing on TV show The X Factor in 2009, and although he came second in the talent competition, he was certainly a winner in the crowd's eyes.

On stage he was supported by a nine-piece band as he performed hits from his self-titled debut album, including Thinking Of Me and Heart On My Sleeve, and cover tracks including Superstition by Stevie Wonder.

During the performance Olly proved every bit the showman by wowing the audience with his smooth dance moves.

He also showed gratitude to his fans by thanking them for voting for him on The X Factor, and ultimately helping him get where he is today.

The cheeky Essex lad paid particular attention to ladies in the audience, which was welcomed by the predominately female crowds, and even got one lucky lady on stage to dance with him.

Olly ended the show with an encore of his number one single Please Don't Let Me Go, and promised the audience he would be back in Birmingham soon.

So if you did not see it this time, it is one to look out for – because this is a show not to be missed.

Alex Wainwright

An Evening with John Cleese, Birmingham Hippodrome

John Cleese has worked with some of the greatest comedy writers and actors ever, and gave the audience an insight into his long and successful career.

The star of Monty Python first explains the reason he has decided to go on the road again - his recent divorce from American psychotherapist Alyce Faye Eichelberger is costing him $20 million over the next five years.

After briefly expressing extreme dissatisfaction with Californian law, the 71-year-old settles down to begin his show, starting with his family's roots. Anyone expecting the show to be a barrel of laughs may have been disappointed at this point.

However, once into full swing, Cleese packed the show full of clips from his early days on The Frost Report, to working with the Two Ronnies and eventually Monty Python.

The evening may not be as hilarious as many people would expect, but it did provide a fascinating insight into the golden era for British comedy, where shows were about experimenting and not ratings.

The second half of the show touched on black comedy, as Cleese believed a dark sense of humour was the only thing he and his mother had in common.

A clip of the Black Knight scene from Monty Python and the Holy Grail was sandwiched between stories of the group pushing each other to be as funny as possible while being a bit naughty, too.

Cleese gave a touching speech about his good friend and fellow Python Graham Chapman, who died in 1989, before moving on to reveal the hotel in which he based Fawlty Towers on and the inception of his hit film A Fish Called Wanda.

Throughout the night, Cleese made it clear he felt he was lucky to be involved in comedy and a three-minute montage of some of his funniest bits closed off the night in a fitting style.

While the show may not be what people expect it is packed full of anecdotes, stories and sketches, which may not always be funny, but are a treat for comedy fans all the same.

Jon Pritchard

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The top property guide for West Bromwich, Wednesbury, Tipton and Smethwick

An artist's impression of the four bedroom Malvern

Showhomes are unveiled at the Cedar Drive development

HOUSEHUNTERS in Oldbury will soon find it a whole lot easier to picture themselves living in a brand new home at Taylor Wimpey's Cedar Drive.

That's because three new showhomes are about to be unveiled at the leading house-builder's sought-after development in Rood End Road, offering would-be purchasers an enticing look at the lifestyle they could be enjoying.

The four-bedroom Malvern, the three-bedroom Kingsford and the stylish two-bedroom Woburn are being sumptuously fitted out by expert interior designers to showcase the selection of homes now on sale at Cedar Drive.

The new showhomes are due to open this spring and would-be movers are urged to register their interest now to ensure they are among the first to look around.

Jan Titley, Regional Sales and Marketing Director for Taylor Wimpey, said: "It's possible to get a realistic idea of what homes at Cedar Drive look like from drawings and plans but there's nothing like walking round a sumptuously decorated showhome to get a true flavour of what life here has to offer. We are not revealing too much just yet about what these stunning show houses will look like but property-seekers can be sure that when these delightful homes are officially launched, there will be some truly inspirational interior designs on display."

Among the homes that can be reserved at Cedar Drive is the four-bedroom Malvern house, priced from £164,995 and with part-exchange for qualifying purchasers. This features a contemporary kitchen/dining room opening through French doors to the private rear garden plus a guest cloakroom off the entrance hallway. The first-floor landing leads to a spacious lounge, a bedroom which could also be used as a study and a main bathroom, while the top floor comprises the master bedroom with en-suite shower room and two further bedrooms. The Malvern also features an integral garage.

All new homes at Cedar Drive are completed to a high standard, including central heating, double glazing and fitted kitchen with integrated oven, hob and hood.

To be among the first to receive information about the showhomes at Cedar Drive, visit the Cedar Drive Sales and Marketing Suite, off Rood End Road, Oldbury, open between 10am and 5pm Thursday to Monday. Or contact 0845 071 8697.

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- Lounge
- Kitchen
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- Bathroom
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- Lounge/Diner
- Fitted Kitchen
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- Sorry NO DHSS

£450 PCM

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TAME CROSSING
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- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Allocated parking
- Double glazing
- Sorry NO DHSS

£475 PCM

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CARISBROOKE ROAD
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- Lounge
- Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Sorry NO DHSS

£475 PCM

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- Lounge
- Kitchen refurbished
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- Fitted Kitchen
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- Bathroom
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- Guest W.C
- Kitchen
- Lounge
- Master Bedroom With En-Suite
- Two Further Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- NO CHAIN

£525 PCM

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- Bathroom
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Town housing plan grows by half

THE number of homes planned for a multi-million development in the heart of West Bromwich has increased by half. Almost 300 homes are now planned.

They are planned for the Claypit Lane, Coppice Street and Wattle Road site. Cleared in 2006, the site, which may see a £30 million investment, was originally earmarked for 200 homes.

Demolished

Residents of 184 homes in the Greets Green area of the town were paid to leave under a compulsory purchase order so they could be demolished five years ago.

The project stalled as the recession hit developers but work is now set to start next spring, if Government funds are granted.

Councillor Simon Hackett, Sandwell Council housing chief, this week said plans were for 292 homes, with 70 affordable.

He said: "The programme has been submitted to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) for funding for 2011-14 as part of their national programme."

The council signed a framework agreement with nine organisations to be partners in a scheme to build homes over five years. It is hoped to build 700 homes a year, every year, in a scheme which may cost £280m and mean that the council will no longer need to spend time and money promoting every vacant site on the open market.

Cllr Hackett said they would choose the developer after a funding decision by Government next month.

He added: "We hope to hear from the HCA in June and if they agree funding we will invite bids from our preferred developers under the framework."

Affordable

The scheme will include affordable housing to rent, buy or part-buy. Some homes may be managed by housing associations or Sandwell Homes.

It is part of long-term plans for the Greets Green area, to tie in with regeneration projects such as the £20 million Eastern Gateway scheme.

West Bromwich-based Accord Housing Association will build 69 homes, an office block and shops on a five acre site for development, spanning High Street, Bull Street and Overend Street.

Work on a 92-home £12.2 million extra care housing scheme in Oak Lane is taking place.

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Offers around £220,000

QUINTON

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An opportunity to acquire a spacious, considerably improved and well presented 3 bedroomed family home conveniently situated within this popular neighbourhood, having double glazing, gas radiator heating and briefly comprising :- Porch, entrance hall (with downstairs w.c., off), attractive lounge, (double doors to) open plan dining area/ fitted kitchen (having integral oven/hob, fridge and freezer), breakfast room/study, 3 bedrooms, re-fitted bathroom, off road parking, side garage/useful store and pleasant rear garden. Viewing essential to fully appreciate the accommodation on offer. NO UPWARD CHAIN. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.
Offers around £184,950

OLDBURY

Bristnall Hall Road
A deceptively spacious, well proportioned 3 bedroomed semi detached property conveniently situated, requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Porch, entrance hall, lounge, separate dining room, fitted breakfast kitchen (with oven/hob), 3 bedrooms, attractive bathroom, off road parking, garage and pleasant rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345
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OLDBURY

Lewis Road
An opportunity to acquire a deceptively spacious, thoughtfully improved and well presented, 3 bedroomed semi detached property conveniently situated, having gas radiator heating, double glazing, truly requiring internal inspection and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, delightful lounge, fitted dining kitchen (with oven/hob), 3 bedrooms, attractive bathroom, drive providing off road parking, and pleasant rear garden. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.
Offers around £144,950

SMETHWICK

Gilbert Road
A deceptively spacious, well proportioned 3 bedroomed intermediate terraced property having gas radiator heating, double glazing, requiring internal inspection and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, front reception room, rear reception room, kitchen, rear vestibule area, downstairs bathroom, separate w.c., 3 bedrooms and pleasant rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345
Offers around £94,950

SMETHWICK

Marion Road
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ROWLEY REGIS

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SMETHWICK

Milton Road
Deceptively spacious, well proportioned 2 Bedroomed intermediate terraced property having majority gas radiator heating and double glazing and briefly comprising :- Entrance vestibule, spacious lounge, breakfast kitchen, rear vestibule area (with downstairs w.c., off), 2 good sized bedrooms, bathroom and rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345
offers around £84,950

OLDBURY

Mallard Drive
A deceptive well proportioned and thoughtfully improved, double bedroomed ground floor flat set upon this popular development, requiring internal inspection approached via a communal entrance and briefly comprising:- Entrance hall, lounge (with kitchenette off), double bedroom (having fitted wardrobe), re-fitted shower room, communal garden and allocated parking space. No upward chain.
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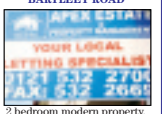

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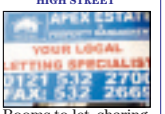

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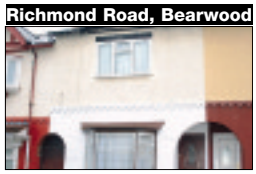

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Offers in the region of £114,950

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SOLD SUBJECT TO CONTRACT

Offers in the region of £149,950

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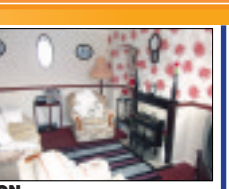
- ★ Detached garage to rear and off road parking to front
- ★ Rear garden

£124,995



NEW

TIPTON

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- ★ Two bedroom end terrace
- ★ Lounge and kitchen
- ★ Laundry room and downstairs WC
- ★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
- ★ Off road parking
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- ★ Kitchen
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- ★ Garage

WAS £126,950 NOW £122,000

NEW

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- ★ Lounge
- ★ Breakfast kitchen
- ★ Majority double glazing
- ★ Block paved hard standing
- ★ Rear garden
- ★ Communal parking to the rear

£114,995

NEW

TIPTON

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- ★ Double glazing
- ★ Lounge
- ★ Off road parking
- ★ Breakfast kitchen
- ★ Front and rear gardens

£99,995

NEW

WEST BROMWICH

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- ★ Two bedrooms
- ★ Two reception rooms
- ★ Upstairs family bathroom
- ★ Central heating and double glazing (where specified)
- ★ Rear garden

£89,995

NEW

TIPTON

CARNEGIE AVENUE

- ★ Two bedroom mid terrace
- ★ Lounge
- ★ Fitted kitchen
- ★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
- ★ Allocated parking
- ★ Front and rear gardens

£89,500

REDUCED

WEST BROMWICH

ANSON ROAD

- ★ Three bedroom mid terrace
- ★ Lounge, dining room, kitchen
- ★ Outside WC and first floor family bathroom
- ★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
- ★ Garage to rear of property
- ★ Front and rear gardens

WAS £89,950 NOW £84,950

TIPTON

BENBECK GROVE

- ★ Four bedroom modern detached
- ★ Two reception rooms
- ★ Downstairs WC and upstairs bathroom
- ★ En suite to master bedroom
- ★ Garage and off road parking
- ★ Central heating and double glazing (where specified)
- ★ Rear garden

£209,995

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TIPTON, WEST BROMWICH & TIVIDALE

Call 0121 520 2255 for a FREE No Obligation Market Appraisal of your home

'Sell with confidence' 'Sell with Skitts'

TIVIDALE

LARCH CROFT

- ★ Modern extended four bedroom detached
- ★ Lounge
- ★ Dining room
- ★ Fitted kitchen
- ★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
- ★ Garage and driveway
- ★ Front and rear gardens

£189,995

TIPTON

DAISY MEADOW

- ★ Three bedroom modern detached
- ★ Two reception rooms
- ★ Kitchen with utility room
- ★ Downstairs WC, upstairs family bathroom
- ★ En suite to master bedroom
- ★ Off road parking and integral garage
- ★ Central heating and double glazing (where specified)

£159,995

WEST BROMWICH

STANLEY ROAD

- ★ Three bedroom traditional semi detached
- ★ Lounge and dining room
- ★ Conservatory with WC
- ★ Upstairs family bathroom
- ★ Central heating and double glazing (where specified)
- ★ Off road parking and garage to rear
- ★ Front and rear gardens

£154,950

WEDNESBURY

LEA AVENUE

- ★ Two bedroom detached bungalow
- ★ Entrance porch
- ★ Lounge and fitted kitchen
- ★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
- ★ Garage, driveway and off road parking
- ★ Front and rear gardens

£145,000

TIPTON

BLOOMFIELD ROAD

- ★ Modern three storey three bedroom mid town house
- ★ Study, kitchen diner and lounge
- ★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
- ★ En suite to master bedroom
- ★ Rear garden
- ★ Garage to rear

£139,995

TIPTON

CLARKES GROVE

- ★ Two/three bedroom semi detached bungalow
- ★ Extended and improved
- ★ Refitted kitchen/diner and refitted bathroom
- ★ Central heating and double glazing (where specified)
- ★ Off road parking and garage
- ★ Rear garden

£137,500

Choosing an Estate Agent to sell your home?

Selecting an Estate Agent to sell your home can be tricky business. The truth is, it is very fickle as the general opinion is that all Estate Agents do the same job so people select the Agent on 1) Price 2) Fees 3) The person they liked.

Poor Estate Agents will play on this fact and give you a high valuation, but won't back it up with **SOLD** comparables and give a low fee so they appear to the the best Agent. This is a 'recipe for disaster' because houses aren't getting strong money so the first important weeks of marketing are lost and the Agent will lose interest and move on to the next batch of houses. If I had a pound for every time I have heard 'If only I had known then' I would be quite well off now!

As a Vendor you should get at least two Market Appraisals and try to assess what is the correct price from the agents (Honestly) and backed up with sold comparables. Pick the agent who is honest and provide you with a service that you want and expect i.e feedback on all viewings, regular contact, pro-active marketing, proven sales in the area. At Skitts I believe we are the best placed Agent in this market place to offer you all of these benefits as with us you are up to twice more likely to sell than with other local Agents, and offer a service I believe second to none.

If you are on the market and not sold or want to sell your house call us for a **FREE** Market Appraisal on **0121 520 2255.**

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TIPTON

GLEBFIELDS ROAD

- ★ Extended three bedroom semi detached
- ★ Lounge with dining area, conservatory
- ★ Extended fitted kitchen
- ★ Refitted bathroom
- ★ Blocked paved driveway
- ★ Double glazing and central heating (where specified)
- ★ Rear garden

£127,000

TIPTON

FERGUSON DRIVE

- ★ Three bedroom end terrace
- ★ Lounge and fitted kitchen
- ★ Downstairs WC
- ★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
- ★ Off road parking
- ★ Front and rear gardens
- ★ Alarm

£119,995

WEST BROMWICH

CROOKHAY LANE

- ★ Three bedroom semi detached
- ★ In need of redecoration and modernisation
- ★ Two reception rooms
- ★ Upstairs family bathroom
- ★ Central heating and double glazing (where specified)
- ★ Garage
- ★ Front and rear gardens

£104,000

REDUCED

TIPTON

DENBIGH ROAD

- ★ Three bedroom semi detached
- ★ Lounge, dining room and kitchen
- ★ Partially double glazed
- ★ Gas fired central heating (where specified)
- ★ Garage and driveway
- ★ Front and rear gardens

Was £99,995 Now £95,000

TIPTON

AVERN CLOSE

- ★ Two bedroom end terrace
- ★ Lounge
- ★ Kitchen
- ★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
- ★ Driveway
- ★ Rear garden

£99,995

TIPTON

BAKER STREET

- ★ Three bedroom mid terrace
- ★ Loune and kitchen
- ★ Conservatory
- ★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
- ★ Driveway
- ★ Rear garden

£89,995

TIPTON

PARK LANE WEST

- ★ Two bedroom mid terrace
- ★ Lounge
- ★ Breakfast kitchen
- ★ First floor bathroom
- ★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
- ★ Rear garden

£86,500

TIPTON

CHATWINS WHARF

- ★ Two bedroom bungalow for over 55 residents only
- ★ Lounge and kitchen
- ★ Bathroom
- ★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
- ★ Communal parking
- ★ Small rear garden

£84,995

TIPTON

WYNN GRIFFITH DRIVE

- ★ One bedroom semi detached house
- ★ Modernised and improved
- ★ Open plan lounge/kitchen
- ★ Double glazing and central heating (where specified)
- ★ Re-fitted upstairs bathroom
- ★ Allocated parking

£72,500

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Bilston
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Wednesbury Hobs Road

An exceptional property - Detached four bedroom bungalow, completely refurbished to a high standard and offering versatile accommodation which must be viewed internally.

£250,000

Wednesbury Wharfedale Street

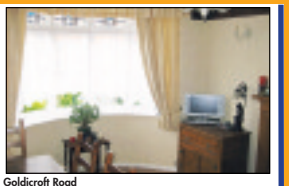
An exceptional four bedroom traditional detached property presented to a very high standard with a top of the range refitted kitchen and spacious rooms throughout.

£230,000 Offers Over

West Bromwich Bustleholme Lane

Superior extended five bedroom detached home in a sought after location. Having two receptions rooms, large extended dining kitchen, conservatory,New central heating system, a early viewing is recommended.

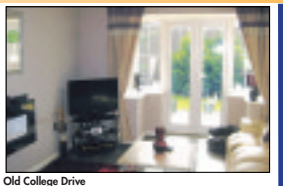
£229,950



Wednesbury Goldicroft Road

Traditional three bedroom detached home in quiet cul de sac location. Having the benefit of central heating and being predominantly double glazed. An early viewing is recommended to appreciate the size and accommodation on offer.

£159,950



Wednesbury Old College Drive

A quality Bellway home on a popular development in a canal-side setting. Having three bedrooms plus a study and the remainder of the builders NHBC guarantee.

£154,950

Wednesbury Freeman Road

Extended three bedroom property with additional ground floor bedroom and wet room in annex. (Suitable for disabled person) available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Having re-fitted bathroom nice kitchen and conservatory.

£114,950

West Bromwich

Griffiths Road

Three bedroom semi detached property in a popular road between Wednesbury & Stone Cross. Double glazed and centrally heated and with scope for further improvement

£92,500

West Bromwich

Gladstone Street

Modern two bedroom first floor apartment in the Hill Top area. Ideal as first time purchase or for investment - No upward chain

£79,950

Wednesbury

Burrs Drive

A fantastic opportunity for First Time Buyers. Two Bedrooms, Two Bathrooms, £2,000 cash-back on completion. 50% Shared Ownership. No Upward Chain.

£49,995

WEST BROMWICH

JAYNE CLOSE

- ★ Three bedroom semi detached
- ★ Through lounge/dining room
- ★ Kitchen
- ★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
- ★ Front and rear gardens
- ★ Garage

WAS £126,950 NOW £122,000

WEST BROMWICH HOLLYHEDGE ROAD

A rare opportunity to acquire this superior detached property in a prestige location of West Bromwich. With four bedrooms, two en-suite s, three reception rooms plus a large conservatory this fabulous family home simply must be viewed.

£339,950

Wednesbury Brunswick Terrace

A rare opportunity to acquire a Victorian "Gentleman's Residence" in a select location. Immaculately presented throughout and offering spacious family accommodation with four bedrooms, two reception rooms and two bathrooms - a very special property

£300,000

West Bromwich Whitworth Drive

QUICK POSSESSION AVAILABLE.Four Bedroom Detached home in a popular cul de sac location. Having the benefit of gas central heating and double glazing, Master bedroom having en-suite shower room, two receptions, Garage, parking and a lovely large private landscaped rear Garden.

£199,950

Wednedbury

Cherry Lane

Much improved two bedroom semi detached property in a cul de sac location on the popular Golf Links Estate. Internal viewing highly recommended.

£129,950

Walsall

Bescot Road

Located close to Junction 9 of the M6 and with excellent access to local schools and shopping, this extended semi detached home is offered for sale with no upward chain. Situated on a corner plot with ample off road parking, the extended accommodation briefly comprises of : Through lounge/dining room, extended breakfast kitchen, three bedrooms, first floor bathroom, small rear garden, large garage, gated off road parking.

£109,950

WEDNESBURY

BILSTON ROAD

With three bedrooms, this extended semi detached property is ideally located for Wednesbury town centre and is considered ideal for first time buyers.

£79,950

WEDNESBURY VICARAGE ROAD

Situated in a very popular road, close to Wednesbury town centre, this well appointed traditional-style mid terraced property must be viewed internally to be fully appreciated. Being competitively priced for a quick sale, the accommodation includes two reception rooms, two bedrooms plus attic room - fantastic value.

£87,500 Offers Over

DARLASTON

Wolverhampton Street

COMPETITIVELY PRICE DOUBLE GLAZED AND CENTRALLY HEATED TWO BEDROOM MID TERRACE IDEAL AS A STARTER HOME. TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, LONG GARDEN, AVAILABLE WITH IMMEDIATE POSSESSION.

£64,950

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ESTATE AGENTS, RESIDENTIAL LETTINGS AND CHARTERED SURVEYORS

NORMAN TERRACE, SMETHWICK

Traditional style semi detached, offering lounge, kitchen, dining room, cloakroom/WC, three bedrooms, family bathroom, rear garden, detached garage.

£119,950

MONARCH HOUSE, POUND ROAD, OLD-

A unique second floor flat being superbly presented throughout. Having the benefit of replacement double glazing and a host of tasteful quality improvements. Superb views over rural countryside. Lounge, Sitting Room/Study, Double Bedroom, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Bathroom, Loft Storage/Workshop, Communal Gradens, Garage. Internal inspection highly recommended.

£115,000

OAKHAM ROAD, DUDLEY

Most delightful and superbly appointed traditional style semi, situated within this most sought after highly favoured residential location, offering gas central heating, double glazing, and charming accommodation to include: two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, large utility room, downstairs shower room, three good bedrooms, bathroom, pleasant and well tended gardens, garage with driveway providing off road parking, viewing essential.

£205,000

HUSKISON CLOSE, TIVIDALE

Most attractive modern style detached, popular residential development, offering gas central heating, double glazing, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, downstairs w/c, three double bedrooms, dressing area with en-suite, family bathroom, gardens, garage, off road parking..viewing essential..

£185,000

STONY LANE, SMETHWICK

Traditional style extended semi, offering gas central heating, double glazing, lounge, dining area, fitted kitchen, side extension, double glazed conservatory, three bedrooms, bathroom, gardens, rear garage, internal inspection highly recommended.

£144,950

HILLBANK, TIVIDALE

Well presented and neatly maintained traditional style semi, cul-de-sac location, offering gas central heating, double glazing, lounge, study, re-fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, pleasant gardens, garage with driveway, viewing essential.

£134,950

ADAMS CLOSE, SMETHWICK

Most charming modern style semi, cul-de-sac location, offering gas central heating, double glazing, lounge, kitchen, superb double glazed conservatory, two bedrooms, bathroom, gardens, off road parking, excellent first time purchase..viewing most highly recommended

£114,950

BIRCH CRESCENT, TIVIDALE

Attractive delightfully presented traditional style two bedroomed semi, in good order throughout, offering gas central heating, double glazing, lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom, rear garden, block paved driveway, ideal first time purchase..no upward chain

£109,950

ASHTREE ROAD, TIVIDALE

Traditional style semi, pleasant residential location, offering gas central heating (where specified), double glazing (where sepcified), two reception rooms, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, gardens, garage, driveway. No upward chain. Realistically priced for early sale.

£99,950

WATERWAYS DRIVE, OLDBURY

Modern town house situated on this popular waterside development at oldbury. Well presented throughout with the benefit of replacement double glazing and gas central heating. Lounge, kitchen, bedroom, re-fitted bathroom, allocated parking, rear garden. Ideal first time purchase and worthy of early inspection

£84,950

LIZAFIELD COURT, HOLLY LANE, SMETH-

Fourth floor flat in need of modernisation and improvement. Double glazing and gas central heating where specified. Entrance hall, kitchen, lounge, three bedrooms, bathroom, separate toilet.

£49,950

DUNSFORD ROAD, SMETHWICK

Mid terraced property briefly comprising; lounge/diner, kitchen/diner, two bedrooms, bathroom with shower.

£575 PCM

HAMILTON DRIVE, TIVIDALE

Traditional Style Semi, Off Road Parking, Double Glazing, Central Heating, Lounge, Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Garden.

£575 PCM

BARTLEET ROAD, SMETHWICK

Modern style terrace, offering double glazing, central heating, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, two bedrooms.

£575 pcm

ROSEFIELD ROAD, SMETHWICK

Traditional terraced house having the benefit of replacement double glazing and gas central heating. Lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, bathroom, three bedrooms, rear garden.

£550 pcm

KELLNER GARDENS, OLDBURY

Modern style apartment, Central Heating, Double Glazed, lounge, 2 Bed rooms, En-suite, Bathroom, kitchen, Off road parking.

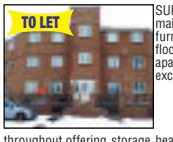
£525 pcm

NEW BIRMINGHAM ROAD, TIVIDALE

Very impressive and well presented second floor apartment, in good order throughout, easy access to m5/m6 motorway networks, offering gas central heating, double glazing, lounge, dining kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, integral garage, off road parking. Available 30th May 2011.

£500 pcm

SUMMERTON ROAD, OLDBURY



SUPerbly maintained furnished first floor apartment,in excellent order throughout,offering storage heating,double glazing,lounge,fitted kitchen,two bedrooms,bathroom,off road parking.

£500 pcm

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Photographs show a typical Persimmon street scene and Showhome interior. *Price shown is 85% of the asking price. Shared Equity is available on selected plots, subject to status, terms and conditions. It is highly advised, for a swift, smooth transaction that a mortgage broker/solicitor advised by Persimmon is used. The Persimmon equity share can be repaid at any time in the first 5 years by paying up to 15% of the market value at the time of sale or remortgage. The Persimmon shared equity scheme will charge interest after 5 years (i.e. in the sixth year of the mortgage) at 1.75% of the amount of the shared equity loan. The interest charge will be increased annually by 1% p.a. plus any increase in RPI during the preceding 12 months. Interest is payable monthly by standing order. Persimmon is not a mortgage provider. YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON YOUR MORTGAGE. †Calls to 0844 numbers cost 5p per minute from a BT landline. Mobile and other providers' charges may vary. Prices and details correct at time of going to press.

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2 bedroom apartment
JUST £88,500

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TOM GILES & CO

team

WEST BROMWICH

BANK STREET

Guide Price: £95,000

FOR SALE BY AUCTION a modern semi detached property offering hall entrance, stores and cloaks off, kitchen, lounge and conservatory. Staircase from hall to first floor landing off which lead, three bedrooms, bathroom, central heating and double glazing, off road parking, front and rear gardens.Contact agent for further Auction details.

OLDBURY

HIGHBURY ROAD

Offers in the region of £204,950

A modern detached property recessed front entrance into reception hall, cloaks and garage leading off, through lounge divided into lounge and dining area, kitchen, staircase to first floor landing, four bedrooms (en-suite off master) bathroom, central heating, double glazing, off road parking, rear garden

OLDBURY

BIRCHLEY PARK AVENUE

Offers in the region of £187,500

An exceptionally well presented detached residence. Recessed front entrance opening onto hall, cloakroom off, lounge, dining room, kitchen. Staircase from hall to first floor landing, three bedrooms (en-suite off master bedroom) bathroom, central heating and double glazing, side garage, off road parking, front and rear gardens

OLDBURY

MEADOW ROAD

Offers in the region of £185,000

A detached bungalow providing good sized family accommodation having substantial garden and double garage to front comprising storm porch entrance into reception hall, walk-in storage cupboard, kitchen and lounge having feature fireplace, 2/3 bedrooms, conservatory, bathroom with seperate shower cubicle, double garage, front and rear gardens

OLDBURY

EMBASSEY ROAD

Offers in the region of £177,950

A well presented fully modernised detached family home decorated in a modern style, situated on a corner position. Hall entrance with W.C. off, lounge, dining room, kitchen, large conservatory. Staircase to three bedrooms (en-suite of master bedroom) bathroom, off road parking to front, garage, central heating and double glazing, rear garden

OLDBURY

FARM AVENUE

Offers in the region of £156,950

A well presented traditional semi detached within the catchment areas of Moat Farm Junior School and Oldbury College of Sport, offering tastefully modern decorated extended family accommodation, porch entrance, reception hall, lounge, dining kitchen, archway to conservatory. Stairs to three bedrooms, shower room, central heating and double glazing, off road parking, rear garden

OLDBURY

HAYES ROAD

Offers in the region of £134,950

A well presented and tastefully modernly decorated double fronted semi detached property Hall entrance, lounge feature fireplace including log burner, dining kitchen with integrated appliances, W.C. off. Staircase to three bedrooms (walk in wardrobe off master) bathroom shower over bath, double glazed, central heating where specified, off road parking, front and rear gardens

TIVIDALE

ADDINGTON WAY

Offers in the region of £130,000

A modern semi detached property having off road parking on communal driveway situated within a quiet estate location comprising hall entrance w.c. off, lounge feature fireplace, dining kitchen with fitted appliances. Staircase to three bedrooms, bathroom shower over bath, central heating and double glazing, off road parking, front and rear gardens

SMETHWICK

SHAKESPEARE ROAD

Offers in the region of £129,950

A well presented and spacious mid town house. Storm porch into reception hall connecting door to through lounge incorporating dining area, kitchen , conservatory. Staircase from hall to three bedrooms, bathroom shower over bath, central heating and double glazing where specified, off road parking, front and rear gardens

SMETHWICK

QUEENS ROAD

Offers in the region of £119,950

A double fronted mid town house providing well maintained accommodation. Hall entrance, lounge, dining kitchen, lobby stores and W.C. off. Staircase from reception hall to first floor landing off which lead , three bedrooms, bathroom shower over bath, double glazing, central heating where specified, off road parking to front, rear garden

OLDBURY

CAUSEWAY GREEN ROAD

Offers in the region of £104,995

A deceptively well maintained and improved End Terraced residence offering ideal first purchase, hall entrance front room L shaped rear sitting room with dining area location bathroom staircse from hall to first floor landing three bedrooms w.c off master bedroom gas central heating double glazing off road parking and front and rear garden.

OLDBURY

ASCOT CLOSE

Offers in the region of £99,950

A semi detached house situated on one of the areas quiet locations offering ideal acquisition for investment or first time purchase comprising storm porch entrance into lounge with feature fireplace, dining kitchen. Staircase from lounge to first floor landing, three bedrooms, double glazing, electric night storage heating controlled by Economy 7 time clock, off road parking and carport, gardens to front and rear

OLDBURY

PENNCRICKET LANE

Offers in the region of £93,000

A fully modernised and refurbished end terraced property having rear off road car parking facility uPVC door into front room feature fireplace, inner hallway stores off, rear sitting room feature fireplace, kitchen. Staircase to landing, two bedrooms, bathroom, double glazing and central heating, rear yard, garden and off road parking facility through shared access to side

OLDBURY

BADSEY ROAD

Offers in the region of £84,950

A semi detached property requiring complete refurbishment and modernisation. Entrance hall, lounge, rear sitting room, kitchen. Staircase from reception hall to first floor landing with airing cupboard, and access to loft space off which lead three bedrooms (two with fitted wardrobes) bathroom shower over bath, part double glazing, front and rear gardens

TIPTON

GROVELAND ROAD

Offers in the region of £43,500

A 50% share within a first floor flat offering good sized well maintained accommodation within a quiet location overlooking the canal network to rear. Entrance with entry phone system to front entrance door, reception hall stores off, lounge, kitchen including oven and hob, two bedrooms, bathroom shower over bath, double glazing and central heating, communal garden and allocated car parking space.

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NAEA — The Property Ombudsman

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DEREK SPIRES
ESTATE AGENTS

WELLESLEY ROAD, OLDBURY

An immaculate and expensively improved traditional style freehold villa residence located in a popular and established neighbourhood close to comprehensive day to day facilities, offering gas central heated and double glazed accommodation, much upgraded in recent times and offering two double bedrooms, fully tiled refitted bathroom with shower, lounge, rear sitting room, fitted kitchen, attractively laid out garden, ideal for first time purchase and requiring full internal inspection to be appreciated.

Offers based on: £86,950

Viewing: Oldbury Office

MCKEAN ROAD, OLDBURY

REDUCED

This deceptively spacious traditional style villa residence is situated in a popular residential locality close to Oldbury Town Centre. The property requires further upgrading but offers good accommodation of two reception rooms, breakfast room, kitchen, three bedrooms, first floor bathroom, gardens fore and rear. Freehold

Offers based on: £99,950

Viewing Oldbury Office

BARNFORD CRESCENT, OLDBURY

REDUCED

Situated in a popular and desirable residential locality, this well presented traditional semi-detached residence which has been extended to rear offers good accommodation with the benefit of double glazing and gas central heating. Internal inspection is highly recommended and briefly comprises reception hall, front living room, rear extended dining room, extended kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, side garage with utility and toilet, rear garden overlooking allotments, freehold.

Offers based on: £159,950

Veiwing: Oldbury Office

THE PINEWAYS, OLDBURY

REDUCED

Situated on a quiet residential development just off Newbury Lane, Oldbury, this well presented ground floor flat offers good accommodation and requires full internal inspection to be appreciated. The property benefits from gas fired central heating and double glazing and offers fitted kitchen, spacious lounge, two double bedrooms, bathroom, gardens, allocated parking.

Offers based on £74,950

Viewing: Oldbury Office

FLASH ROAD, OLDBURY

This excellently presented second floor flat is situated close to Oldbury town centre. Full internal inspection is highly recommended and the property benefits from double glazing and gas fired central heating, briefly comprises entrance hall, two bedrooms, well appointed bathroom, open plan lounge/kitchen, allocated car parking space.

Offers based on: £104,950

Viewing: Oldbury Office

ALBION ROAD, WEST BROMWICH

REDUCED

This prominent corner property offers good accommodation with the benefit of double glazing. Internal inspection is highly recommended and it briefly comprises reception hall, lounge, good sized breakfast kitchen, three bedrooms, well appointed shower room, ample space for car parking to front, enclosed garden, freehold.

Offers based on: £125,950

Viewing: Oldbury Office

LIGHTWOODS HILL

A superbly presented, most sympathetically improved and delightfully situated freehold traditional style three storey semi-detached residence offering excellent family accommodation which is gas centrally heated and part double glazed, occupying a premier location directly facing Warley Woods in this established private residential neighbourhood and to include five double bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, hall, front lounge, breakfast room, sitting room, kitchen, utility, downstairs cloakroom, mature and secluded south-facing garden, off-street parking for at least two cars and having the benefit of a detached side garage,

Offers based on: £367,500

Viewing: Bearwood Office

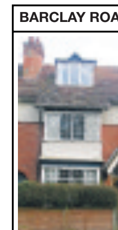
Bowling Green Drive

Enjoying an extremely pleasant location in a recently established residential close with the benefit of an open outlook over sports fields to the rear, a modern detached freehold residence offering immaculate, gas centrally heated, double glazed and fully alarmed accommodation to include master bedroom with en suite shower room, two additional bedrooms, hall, well proportioned lounge, excellent open plan fitted kitchen/dining room, delightful well stocked garden and off-street parking for two cars, within easy reach of Bearwood shopping centre and Warley Woods, with the benefit of easy access to Birmingham city centre and surrounding areas.

Offers based on: £164,950

Viewing: Bearwood Office

BARCLAY ROAD, BEARWOOD



Delightfully situated directly facing Warley Woods in this sought after residential thoroughfare, a substantial freehold traditional style terraced residence offering gas centrally heated and double glazed family accommodation with a host of original features and to include through hall, two living rooms, spacious fitted dining/kitchen, laundry/utility room, four good size bedrooms, refitted bathroom with shower, separate WC, ornamental gardens and having the benefit of an excellent range of day-to-day amenities virtually on the doorstep, to include shopping facilities in Bearwood, Warley Woods and its golf course and easy access to Birmingham city centre just three miles or so distant.

Offers based on £264,950

Viewing: Bearwood Office

SMITH CLOSE

Most pleasantly situated in a quiet, recently established residential close off William Road, a freehold semi-detached property offering gas centrally heated and PVC double glazed accommodation to include three bedrooms, bathroom with electric shower, hall, downstairs cloakroom, spacious lounge, kitchen/breakfast room, neatly laid out garden to the rear, detached garage and having the benefit of off-street parking for three cars, with comprehensive day-to-day amenities close at hand to include easy access to Bearwood and Birmingham city centre, with internal inspection to be appreciated.

Offers based on: £134,950

Viewing via Bearwood Office

KATHERINE ROAD

A well presented freehold, traditional style villa residence offering gas centrally heated and PVC double glazed accommodation to include two double bedrooms, bathroom with electric shower unit, hallway with original Minton tiled floor, lounge, dining room, kitchen and neatly laid out garden to the rear, having comprehensive day-to-day amenities close at hand and providing easy access to Birmingham city centre.

Offers based on: £139,950

Viewing: Bearwood Office

RATHBONE ROAD, SMETHWICK

Located in a pleasant established neighbourhood close to Warley Woods, a traditional style freehold villa residence offering gas centrally heated and part double glazed accommodation to include two double bedrooms, spacious bathroom, hall, dining room, lounge, fitted kitchen and easily maintained garden, having the benefit of comprehensive day-to-day amenities close at hand and being ideal for first time purchasers.

Offers based on £124,950

Viewing: Bearwood Office

PUBLIC AUCTION AT PORTLAND ROAD PAVILION

241 PORTLAND ROAD, EDGBASTON, BIRMINGHAM, B17 8LS

ON MONDAY 6TH JUNE 2011 AT 6.30 PM

Lot 1:	**14 STANHOPE ROAD, SMETHWICK, B67 6HN** Freehold, 3 bedroomed, double glazed, end town house, with garage	£80,000-£85,000
Lot 2:	**50 FAIRWAY ROAD, OLDBURY, B68 8BE** Freehold, centrally heated, 3 bedroomed town house, in need of modernisation.	£75,000-£80,000
Lot 3:	**378 PORTLAND ROAD, EDGBASTON, B17 8LT** Freehold, 3 bedroomed terraced, requiring improvement	£75,000-£80,000
Lot 4:	**352 HIGH STREET, SMETHWICK, B66 3PD** Freehold, 2 bedroomed, centrally heated and double glazed terraced, needing further improvement.	£67,500-£70,000
Lot 5:	**2 CROSS STREET, OLDBURY B68 8QX** Freehold, 3 bedroomed traditional semi-detached, with double glazing.	£70,000-£75,000
Lot 6:	**2 CROCKETTS AVENUE, HANDSWORTH, B21 0HT** Traditional, freehold, centrally heated, semi-detached with 3 bedrooms but needing improvement.	£75,000-£80,000
Lot 7:	**57 PARGETER ROAD, BEARWOOD, B67 5HY** Freehold, part double glazed, 2 bedroomed villa, in need of upgrading	£ circa 89,950
Lot 8:	**23 SOUTHFIELD ROAD, EDGBASTON, B16 0JP** Freehold, 3 bedroomed villa, double glazed and centrally heated.	£95,000-£100,000
Lot 9:	**7 OAK STREET, QUARRY BANK, DY5 2JQ** Freehold, detached property needing renovation, plus storage yard and extensive off-street parking.	£40,000-£50,000
Lot 10:	**19 TITFORD ROAD, OLDBURY, B69 4PY** Modern, 2 bedroomed, mid-town house requiring improvements.	£70,000-£75,000
Lot 11:	**124 WIGORN ROAD, BEARWOOD, B67 5HF** Freehold, 3 bedroomed terraced, needing modernisation.	£75,000-£80,000

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HENDERSON COURT, QUEENSWAY

£69,950 NEW

★ THREE BEDROOMS MAISONETTE ★ LOUNGE ★ KITCHEN ★ THREE BEDROOMS ★ BATHROOM ★ DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING

PERRY COURT, OLDBURY

£87,950

★ TWO BEDROOM FLAT ★ LOUNGE ★ FITTED KITCHEN ★ BATHROOM ★ PRIVATE PARKING ★ CENTRAL HEATING ★ DOUBLE GLAZING

HURST ROAD, SMETHWICK

£105,000 NEW PRICE

★THREE BEDROOM ★MID TERRACED ★THROUGH LOUNGE ★KITCHEN ★BATHROOM ★FRONT DRIVEWAY ★ NO CHAIN.

WHITE ROAD, SMETHWICK

£105,000 NEW PRICE

★THREE BEDROOM ★TERRACED ★TWO RECEPTION ROOMS ★FITTED KITCHEN ★UPSTAIRS BEDROOM ★REAR GARDEN

WALTON ROAD, OLDBURY

£109,950 NEW

★ Three bedroom semi detached ★ Lounge ★ Kitchen diner ★ Utility room ★ Shower room ★ Central heating and double glazing

THRONE ROAD, ROWLEY REGIS

£109,950 NEW

Three Bedrooms Lounge Kitchen/Dining Area Bathroom Rear Garden Viewing Recommended

WATERSIDE COURT, OLDBURY

£109,950

★ SECOND FLOOR APARTMENT ★ FITTED KITCHEN ★ LOUNGE ★ TWO BEDROOMS ★ SECURED PARKING ★ DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING ★ COMMUNAL GARDENS

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DEVONSHIRE ROAD, SMETHWICK

£365,000 NEW

★ SIX BEDROOM ★ DETACHED ★ TWO RECEPTION ROOMS ★ FITTED KITCHEN ★ GUEST W.C. ★ UTILITY ROOM ★ EN-SUITE ★ FRONT DRIVEWAY ★ SIDE GARAGE ★OFF ROAD PARKING

LOWER HIGLEY CLOSE, QUINTON

£117,000 NEW

★ THREE/FOUR BEDROOMS ★ MID TERRACED ★ LOUNGE ★ KITCHEN DINER ★ EN-SUITE ★ REAR GARDEN ★ OFF ROAD PARKING

FREDERICK ROAD, OLDBURY

£122,500 NEW

★ TWO BEDROOMS ★ END TERRACED ★ TWO RECEPTION ROOMS ★ FITTED KITCHEN ★ FITTED BATHROOM ★ FRONT AND REAR GARDENS

PENSTOCK DRIVE, OLDBURY

£130,000

★ TWO BEDROOM NEW BUILD ★ Terraced property ★ One Reception Room ★ Guest W.C., ★ Garden with a paved patio area ★ Off road parking ★ Double Glazed ★Central Heated

QUEENSWAY CLOSE, OLDBURY

£134,950 NEW

★ THREE BEDROOMS ★ SEMI DETACHED ★ TWO RECEPTION ROOMS ★ CONSERVATORY ★ FRONT DRIVEWAY ★ OFF ROAD PARKING

MOAT ROAD, OLDBURY

£165,000 NEW PRICE

★SEMI DETACHED ★ FITTED KITCHEN/DINER ★ UTILITY ROOM ★ TWO RECEPTION ROOMS ★UPSTAIRS BATHROOM ★THREE BEDROOMS ★ DOUBLE GLAZED ★ CENTRAL HEATING ★ OFF ROAD ROAD PARKING ★ GARAGE

TRAFALGAR ROAD, TIVIDALE

£179,950 NEW

★ THREE BEDROOMS ★ DETACHED ★ TWO RECEPTION ROOMS ★ FITTED KITCHEN ★ UTILITY AREA ★ GUEST W.C. ★ OFF ROAD PARKING ★ GARAGE

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WOODBOURNE ROAD, SMETHWICK

£224,950 NEW PRICE

★THREE BEDROOMS ★SEMI DETACHED ★ TWO RECEPTION ROOMS ★ FITTED KITCHEN ★ GUEST W.C. ★ SIDE GARAGE ★ FRONT DRIVEWAY ★ OFF ROAD PARKING

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Leveson Drive, Tipton — NEW

Modern End Terrace having upvc double glazing, gas central heating & superbly presented accommodation. Reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms (fitted wardrobes), bathroom with shower, block paved driveway to front, additional 2 car parking area & attractive rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £104,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Tividale Street, Tipton — NEW

Modern Middle Terrace having gas central heating and briefly comprising, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, driveway to front and rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £99,995
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

High Street, Tipton — NEW

Modern Detached Bungalow having gas central heating, upvc double glazing to most windows and offering no upward chain. The property which requires improvement / attention briefly comprises, porch, reception hall, lounge, kitchen, inner hallway, 2 bedrooms, bathroom & fore / rear gardens.
OFFERS AROUND: £114,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Belmont Close, Tipton — NEW

Modern Semi Detached having upvc double glazing and gas central heating. Offering immaculate accommodation, no upward chain & briefly comprising, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen (fitted appliances), 2 bedrooms (fitted wardrobes), bathroom, side driveway, side garage plus work shop, fore / rear gardens.
OFFERS AROUND: £109,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Davis Avenue, Tipton — NEW

Much Improved Traditional Semi Detached having upvc double glazing and gas central heating. Ideal location with canal to rear whilst briefly comprising, porch, reception hall, lounge / dining room, extended fitted kitchen, family room, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower cubicle, driveway to front and attractive rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £121,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Anne Grove, Burberry Grange, Tipton — NEW

Modern Semi Detached situated on a most sought after location. Offering upvc double glazing, gas central heating & briefly comprising, reception hall, through lounge / dining room, conservatory, fitted kitchen with built in oven/hob, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, large block paved driveway and attractive rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £139,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Park Lane East, Tipton — NEW

Middle Terrace having upvc double glazing, gas central heating and re-furbished / improved accommodation. Lounge, sitting room, fitted kitchen with built in oven/hob, downstairs bathroom, 3 bedrooms, upstairs shower room & rear yard.
OFFERS AROUND: £94,995
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Summerhill Road, Tipton — NEW

Middle Terrace having upvc double glazing and gas central heating. Offering no upward chain & briefly comprising, reception hall, lounge, kitchen, conservatory, 3 bedrooms, shower room, fore garden, rear garden & vehicle access to rear.
OFFERS AROUND: £72,500
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Wallace Road, Bradley, Bilston — REDUCED

A deceptively spacious semi detached residence which benefits from upvc double glazing & gas central heating. Situated on a corner plot this property briefly comprises: Reception Hall, Through Lounge / Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room & WC, 4 Bedrooms, Shower Room, Driveway to Front & Side & Rear Garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £114,995
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Thunderbolt Way, Birchfields, Tipton — REDUCED

Modern Middle 3 Storey Town House having upvc double glazing, gas central heating, spacious family accommodation & briefly comprising, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen with built in oven/hob, 4 bedrooms, en suite shower room, family bathroom, separate garage & rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £139,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Lower City Road, Tividale — REDUCED

Extended Traditional Semi Detached having upvc double glazing, gas central heating and extension to rear. Spacious family accommodation briefly comprises, porch, reception hall, lounge, sitting room, fitted kitchen, wet-room, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, driveway, side garage & good size rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £159,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Sannders Crescent, Tipton

Modern Detached having upvc double glazing, gas central heating and good size family accommodation. Reception hall, guest cloakroom, lounge, conservatory, study room, fitted kitchen with built in oven/hob, 4 bedrooms, en suite shower room, family bathroom, 2 car driveway, garage and rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £194,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Elizabeth Mews, Tividale — NEW

Modern End Terrace having upvc double glazing, gas central heating and cul-de-sac location. Offering well presented accommodation which briefly comprises, reception hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, side driveway, side garage, fore / rear gardens
OFFERS AROUND: £129,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Barney Close, Tipton — NEW

Modern Executive style Detached offering upvc double glazing, gas central heating & improved accommodation. Spacious family home, briefly comprises, reception hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility room, guest cloakroom, 4 bedrooms, en suite shower room, family bathroom, driveway, fore / rear gardens.
OFFERS AROUND: £195,995
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Sedgley Road West, Tipton — REDUCED

Traditional Semi Detached having gas central heating & spacious family accommodation. Offering no upward chain & briefly comprising, reception hall, cellar, through lounge, kitchen, 4 bedrooms, bathroom with shower cubicle, separate toilet, driveway to front & rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £129,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Carnegie Avenue, Tipton — NEW

Considerably extended End Terrace offering upvc double glazing and superbly presented accommodation. Extended to side at ground / first floor level whilst briefly comprising, reception hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, abthroom with shower, side driveway and rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £134,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Cupfields Avenue, Tipton — NEW

Middle Terrace having upvc double glazing and gas central heating. Reception hall, lounge, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, fore / rear gardens.
OFFERS AROUND: £94,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Anchor Drive, Tipton

Modern Purpose Built First Floor Apartment having upvc double glazing and offering no upward chain. Reception hall, lounge, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom and allocated parking.
OFFERS AROUND: £69,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Price Road, Wednesbury

- Well Presented 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (as specified)
- Reception Hall
- Lounge & Sun Room

OFFERS AROUND: £110,000
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Pommel Close, Walsall — NEW

- A 2 Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- No Upward Chain
- Double Glazed (as specified)
- Storm Porch & Lounge

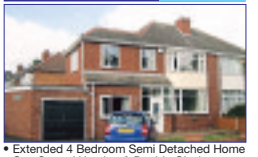
OFFERS AROUND: £69,995
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Manifold Way, Wednesbury — NEW

- A Quirky & Characterful 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Occupying a Corner Plot
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Reception Hall & Guest WC

OFFERS AROUND: £139,995
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Riverway, Wednesbury — NEW



- Extended 4 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- No Upward Chain
- Corner Plot Overlooking Greenery

OFFERS AROUND: £169,995
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

St Peter Croft, Wednesbury — NEW

- A Sizeable 4 Bedroom Detached Home
- Gas Central Heating & Doubl Glazing
- Quiet Cul-de-Sac Location
- Reception Hall & Guest WC

OFFERS AROUND: £249,995
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Hydes Road, Wednesbury

- Substantial 3 Bedroom Edwardian Detached Home
- Original 'Sash' Windows
- Requiring General Upgrade
- Reception Hall with Mintern Tiled Floor & Cellar

OFFERS AROUND: £204,995
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Wood Green Road, Wednesbury — REDUCED

- Attractive 3 Bedroom Detached Home
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (where specified)
- Very Spacious Accommodation
- Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND £180,000
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Hamstead Terrace, Wednesbury — REDUCED

- An Alarmed 2 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Placed within a Cul-de-Sac Location
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (where specified)
- Reception Hall & Downstairs W/C

OFFERS AROUND: £99,995
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Darby Road, Wednesbury — REDUCED

- A Traditional 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- UPVc Double Glazing
- No Upward Chain
- Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND: £114,995
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Peach Avenue, Darlaston — REDUCED

- A Mostly Double Glazed 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Gas Central Heating
- Cul-de-Sac Location
- Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND: £99,995
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Church Hill, Wednesbury — REDUCED

- A 3 Double Bedroom Semi Detached with 2 Storey Extension
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Popular Location & No Upward Chain
- Reception Hal with Feature Open Plan Staircase

OFFERS AROUND: £134,950
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Oakeswell Street, Wednesbury — REDUCED

- A Traditional 3 Bedroom Detached Home
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing (where specified)
- Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND: £160,000
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

School Road, Wednesbury

- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Gas Central Heating (as specified)
- Double Glazing (as specified)
- Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND: £73,950
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Bassett Road, Wednesbury

- A Nicely Presented 3 Bedroom Mid Town House
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (as specified)
- Reception Hall
- Lounge with Feature Fireplace

Viewing: 0121 505 3533 £74,995

Corporation Street, Wednesbury — NEW

- A 3 Bedroom Mid Terrace
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (as specified)
- Short Distance to Wednesbury Town Centre
- Lounge with Feature Fireplace

OFFERS AROUND: £94,995
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Hales Road, Wednesbury — REDUCED

- Well Presented 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Gas Central Heating & Double GLazing (as specified)
- Storm Porch & Reception Hall
- Fitted Breakfast Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £128,500
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Poplar Road, Wednesbury

- Spacious Semi-Detached
- 2 Double Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- No Upward Chain

OFFERS AROUND: £113,000
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Myvod Road, Wednesbury

- A 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (as specified)
- Reception Hall
- Lounge with Feature 'Louis' Fireplace

FIXED/ASKING: £116,000
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

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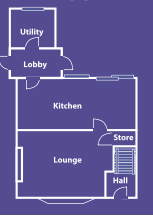

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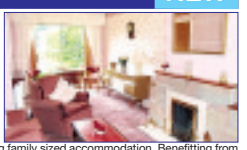
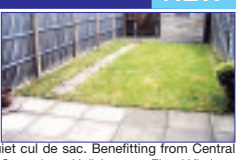
Dawes Avenue, West Bromwich — NEW



A deceptively spacious mid terraced house offering family sized accommodation. Benefitting from Central Heating, Double Glazing and No Upward Chain. Accommodation Comprises- Entrance Hall, Through Lounge/ Dining Room, Kitchen, Side Lobby with Entrance Door, 3 Good Size Bedrooms, Bathroom/ WC, Long Rear Garden and Driveway Off Road Parking.

Viewing 0121 525 2111 — OFFERS AROUND: £97,500

Livingstone Road, West Bromwich — NEW



A Modern Mid Terraced House within a quiet cul de sac. Benefitting from Central Heating and Double Glazing. Accomodation Comprises- Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, 2 Bedrooms, Bathroom/ WC, Gardens to Front & Rear, Allocated Parking Space.

Viewing 0121 525 2111 — OFFERS AROUND: £107,000

Charlemont Avenue, West Bromwich — NEW

An Attractive Traditional Semi Detached House situated within the highly regarded cul de sac of Charlemont Avenue. Benefitting From No Upward Chain. Accomodation Comprises- Integral Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Open Plan Kitchen & Dining Room, 3 Good Size Bedrooms, Bathroom/ WC, Verandah, Large Rear Garden, Front Garden and Driveway Off Road Parking Leading to Garage.

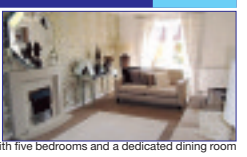
Viewing 0121 525 2111 — OFFERS AROUND: £155,000

Churchfields Place, All Saints Way, West Bromwich — NEW

The Irving's master bedroom comes complete with a fitted wardrobe and luxury en-suite. This attractive home also features a large kitchen/family/dining room with seperate utility and the choice of a fourth bedroom or study. It's perfect for flexible family living, with style.

OFFERS AROUND: £234,950
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

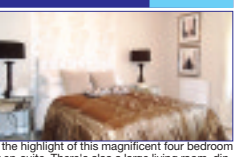
Churchfields Place, All Saints Way, West Bromwich — NEW



Discover luxurious family living in The Manning. With five bedrooms and a dedicated dining room with welcoming bay window and a large sitting room, it's the perfect place to entertain guests. And why not make the ground floor study your own private sanctuary from the delights of family living.

Viewing 0121 525 2111 — OFFERS AROUND: £420,000

Churchfields Place, All Saints Way, West Bromwich — NEW



The Shelbourne's master bedroom can be seen as the highlight of this magnificent four bedroom home, with its own private dressing area and luxury en-suite. There's also a large living room, dining room, kitchen/family/breakfast room and an integral double garage for extra security and peace of mind.

Viewing 0121 525 2111 — OFFERS AROUND: £415,000

Churchfields Place, All Saints Way, West Bromwich — NEW

Benford is a stylish 3 bedroom 2 storey house, ideal for every lifestyle. The ground floor features a bright and airy kitchen/dining room with French doors to the garden and a seperate sitting room. The first benefits from a master bedroom with its own en-suite, 2 further bedrooms and a family bathroom.

OFFERS AROUND: £169,950
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

Broadfield Close, West Bromwich West Bromwich — REDUCED

A Two Bedroom First Floor Maisonette availble for Cash Offers Only due to Short Lease Length. Requires Upgrade and Refurbishment but Priced Accordingly. No Upward Chain. Accommodation comprises-Entrance Hall with storage cupboards, Lounge, Kitchen, 2 Bedrooms, Shower Room/ WC, Communal Rear Garden with Garden Store.

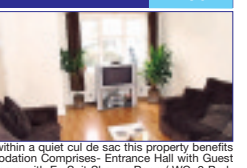
OFFERS AROUND: £49,950
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

Charlemont Road, West Bromwich — REDUCED

A Delightful, Detached House pleasantly situated in this much sought after residential area. Upgraded throughout to high standard. Benefitting from double glazing, central heating and intruder alarm. Offering surprisingly spacious accomodation comprising- Storm Porch, Hall with Guests Cloaks/WC, 23 ft Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory, 18ft Refitted Kitchen, 3 Good Size Bedrooms, Refitted Bathroom, Separate WC, Large Rear Garden, 2 Car tandem Garage and Driveway Affording Off Road Parking for Several Cars.

Viewing 0121 525 2111 — OFFERS AROUND: £264,950

Edwin Phillips Drive, West Bromwich — REDUCED



An Attractive Modern End Town House. Situated within a quiet cul de sac this property benefits from Central Heating and Double Glazing. Accomodation Comprises- Entrance Hall with Guest Cloaks/ WC, Lounge, Kitchen/ Diner, Master Bedroom with En Suit Shower Room/ WC, 2 Bedrooms, Bathroom/ WC, Gardens to Front & Rear and Driveway Off Road Parking.

Viewing 0121 525 2111 — OFFERS AROUND: £119,950

Crankhall Lane, West Bromwich West Bromwich — REDUCED

Excellent for First Time Buyers. An Attractive Second floor Appartment, Benfitting from Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Open Plan Lounge/ Kitchen/ Diner, Fitted Bathroom with Shower over Bath, One Double Bedroom and Allocated Parking space.

OFFERS AROUND: £82,000
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

Sheridan Street, West Bromwich West Bromwich

A traditional, semi detached house, situated in this popular area with extension potential. Centrally heated, double glazed where specified and intruder alarmed. Storm porch, hall with pantry off, spacious lounge/dining room, recently re-fitted Kitchen, verandah, 3 bedrooms, bathroom/WC. large carport, rear garden which is not overlooked. Viewing 0121 525 2111.

OFFERS AROUND: £142,950
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

Bridle Grove, West Bromwich West Bromwich

An Attractive Extended Modern Detached House located within the highly sought after Penny Hill Lane Area. Benefitting From Central Heating, Double Glazing and Intruder Alarm. Accomodation Comprises- Entrance with enclosed vestibule, Inner Hall with Guest Cloaks/WC, Large 'L' Shaped Lounge/ Dining Room, Conservatory, Extended Kitchen, 2nd Reception Room/ Bedroom Four, Master Bedroom with En-suite Shower Room/ WC, 3 Further First Floor Bedrooms, Family Bathroom/ WC, Gardens to Front & Rear and Driveway Off Road Parking.

OFFERS AROUND: £219,950
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

Pembroke Road, West Bromwich West Bromwich

An Attractive Semi Detached House situated within a quiet cul de sac location. Benefitting From Central Heating, Double Glazing, Cavity Wall and Loft Insulation. Accommodation Comprises- Entrance Hall, Through Lounge/ Dining Room, Refitted Kitchen, 2 Bedrooms, Refitted Bathroom/ WC, Good Size Rear Garden and Driveway Off Road Parking. Please note that Google Earth images for this postal area are not up to date.

OFFERS AROUND: £99,950
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

Graham Road, West Bromwich West Bromwich

A Well Presented Extended Semi Detached House situated within a Quiet Cul De Sac. Benefitting form Central Heating and Double Glazing. Accommodation Comprises- Porch, Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Extended Fitted Kitchen, 3 Good Size Bedrooms, Refitted Shower Room/ WC, Large Rear Garden, Driveway Off Road Parking.

OFFERS AROUND: £139,950
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

Railway Street, West Bromwich West Bromwich

A Modern Mid Terraced House situated at the head of a quiet cul de sac. Excellent location for Town Centre and Metro Station. No Upward Chain. Centrally Heated and Double Glazed. Accomodation Comprises- Entrance Hall, Lounge/ Diner, Kitchen, 2 Good Size Bedrooms, Bathroom/ WC, Gardens to Front & Rear and Off Road Parking available within Parking Area.

OFFERS AROUND: £94,950
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

Tiverton Drive, West Bromwich, West Midlands

An Excellent Modern Semi Detached House with a large plot to side and rear offer excellent extension potential (subject to planning permission). Situated within a quiet cul de sac. Centrally Heated, Double Glazed and Intruder Alarm. Accomodation Comprises- Hall, Guest Cloaks/ WC, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Conservatory, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom/ WC. Large Gardens to Front, Side and Rear and Off Road Parking for 2 Cars.

OFFERS AROUND: £159,950
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

Surrey Crescent, Hill Top, West Bromwich West Bromwich

An Attractive, Extended, Semi Detached House. Benefitting from Central Heating, Double Glazing and Intruder Alarmed. Accomodation Comprises- Porch, Entrance Hall, Through Lounge/ Dining Room, Conservatory, Kitchen, Utility with WC, 2 Bedrooms, Bathroom/ WC, Gardens to Front and Rear, Shared Driveway to Large 'L' Shaped Garage.

OFFERS AROUND: £109,950
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

Beaconview Road, West Bromwich West Bromwich

Coming Soon- Call For Details. A Modern 3 Bed Room, 3 Storey House benefitting from No Upward Chain. Centrally Heated and Double Glazed. Accomodation Comprises- Hall & Study, Lounge/ Diner, Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Shared Ensuite, Gardens and Off Road Parking, Unexpired Premier Guarantee

OFFERS AROUND: £135,000
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

St Valentines Close, West Bromwich West Bromwich

A Spacious Extended, Four Bedroom Link Detached House located within a Quiet Cul De Sac. Benefitting form Central Heating & Double Glazing. Accomodation Comprises- Porch, Hall with Guest Cloaks/ WC, 2 Reception Rooms, Conservatory, Kitchen, Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower Room, 3 Further Bedrooms, Shower Room/ WC, Gardens to Rear and Driveway Off Road Parking to Front.

OFFERS AROUND: £239,950
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

Lescroft Grove, Hill Top, West Bromwich West Bromwich

An Attractive, centrally heated, double glazed, Semi Detached House. Storm Porch, Lounge, Recently refitted Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Covered Side Passageway, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom/WC, Off road parking for small car and Garage for small car nearby. Viewing 0121 525 2111.

OFFERS AROUND: £116,950
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

Clifford Road, West Bromwich West Bromwich

A Good Size Mid Terraced House. No Upward Chain. Benefitting form Central Heating and Majority Double Glazing. Accomodation Comprises Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom/ WC, Verandah, 3 Bedrooms, Gardens to Front & Rear.

OFFERS AROUND: £89,950
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

Hollyhedge Road, West Bromwich West Bromwich

A Delightful, Deceptively Spacious, Semi Detached Dormer Bungalow benefitting from Central Heating, Double Glazing and Cavity Wall Insulation. Must be viewed internally to be fully appreciated. Storm Porch, Hall, Spacious Split level Lounge/ Dining Room/ Sitting Room, Conservatory, Breakfast Kitchen, Bathroom/wc, 3 Bedrooms (One on ground floor), Toilet, Driveway parking for 3 cars and a good sized rear garden and secuirt lighting to Front & Rear.

Viewing: 0121 525 2111 — £174,950

Gladstone Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands

A Spacious End Terraced House offering good extension potential (Subject to Planning Permission). Centrally Heated and Part Double Glazed. Accomodation Comprises- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Extended Kitchen, Guest Cloaks/ WC, 3 Good Size Bedrooms, Bathroom/ WC, Gardens to Front & Rear and Gated Driveway Leading to Garage.

OFFERS AROUND: £119,995
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

Andrew Road, West Bromwich West Bromwich

An Attractive, Semi Detached House, situated in this popular residential area and convenient for the Railway Station. Centrally Heated, Double Glazed, Accomodation comprises Porch, Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom/ WC, Driveway Parking, Garage and Pleasant Rear Garden.

OFFERS AROUND: £136,950
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

Beechwood Road, West Bromwich West Bromwich

A Spacious Traditional Semi Detached House located within a highly sought after residential area. No Upward Chain. Excellent location for Town Centre and Local Amenities. Accomodation Comprises- Entrance Hall, Through Lounge/ Dining Room (Originally Two Rooms), Fitted Kitchen, 3 Good Size Bedrooms, Bathroom/ WC, Block Paved Driveway to Front, Attractive Rear Garden, Garage with Shed Area with Rear Vehicle Access.

OFFERS AROUND: £159,950
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

Pennncricket Lane, Rowley Regis Rowley Regis

A Modern Detached House Within A Popular Residential Area. Benefitting From Central Heating, Double Glazing and No Upward Chain. Accomodation Comprises- Porch, Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/ Diner, Bathroom/ WC, Gardens to Front & Rear, Driveway and Garage.

OFFERS AROUND: £145,000
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

Bridge Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands

A 2 bedroom first floor flat situated in a quiet courtyard style location. Excellent possition for the Town Centre. Accomodation comprises- Hall, Lounge, 2 Bedrooms, Kitchen, Bathroom/ WC and Shared Garden.

OFFERS AROUND: £79,950
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

Byron Street, West Bromwich West Bromwich

An Impressivley Extended Double Fronted End Terraced House. Benefitting From Central Heating and Double Glazing. Accomodation Comprises Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Extended Kitchen/ Diner, Utility, Guest Cloaks/ WC, 3 Bedrooms, En Suite Shower Room, Bathroom/ WC

OFFERS AROUND: £159,995
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

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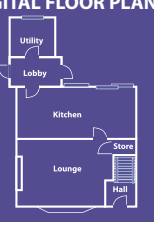

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WEDNESBURY
KENT ROAD
- 1 Bedroom First Floor Flat
- Bedroom
- Potential Second Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Kitchen
- Communal Gardens
- NO CHAIN

£64,995

DARLASTON
DANGERFIELD LANE
- 2 Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Bathroom
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Driveway

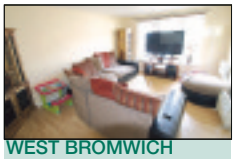
£71,000

DARLASTON
ADDENBROOKE STREET
- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Utility
- Two Reception Rooms
- Three Bedrooms
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens

£79,950

WEST BROMWICH
ANSON ROAD
- Three Bedroom End-Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Garden
- Kitchen
- Utility Room
- Detached Garage

£84,950



WEST BROMWICH
MONKGATE DRIVE
- 2 Bedroom
- Secured Buzzer Entrance
- 1 Reception Room
- Double Glazing
- Ground Floor Appartment
- Close to Town Centre

£85,000

WEDNESBURY
COBHAM ROAD
- Mid Terraced
- Gas Central
- 3 Bedrooms
- 1 Reception Room
- Heating
- Off Road Parking
- NO CHAIN

£92,000

WEDNESBURY
QUEEN STREET
- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Kitchen
- Two Reception Rooms
- Ground Floor Family Bathroom
- Newly Fitted
- Three Bedrooms
- Rear Garden

£99,950

WEDNESBURY
BEEBEE ROAD
- Semi Detached
- Gas Central
- 3 Bedrooms
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Heating
- Double Glazing
- NO CHAIN

£99,950

TIPTON
ST HELENS AVENUE
- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Two Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking

£99,995

DARLASTON
PARTRIDGE AVENUE
- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- Two Receptions Rooms
- Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Driveway

£109,500

HALL STREET EAST
- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Bathroom
- Lounge
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Driveway

£109,950

WEDNESBURY
ALDER ROAD
- One Bedroom
- Sac
- Semi Detached Bungalow
- Double Glazing
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Gas Central Heating
- Newly Refurbished
- Located in a Cul De

£109,950

WEST BROMWICH
CROCKFORD ROAD
- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Bathroom
- Lounge
- Conservatory
- Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Ground Floor
- W.C.
- Off Road Parking

£110,000

WEST BROMWICH
EDWIN PHILLIPS DRIVE
- Two Bedrooms
- Kitchen
- One Reception Room
- Double Glazing
- Downstairs W/C
- Gas Central Heating
- Fully Fitted
- Off Road Parking

£117,500

WEST BROMWICH
SIDDONS WAY
- Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Two Bedrooms
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Lounge
- Conservatory
- Off Road Parking

£117,950

TIPTON
TIBBINGTON TERRACE
- Detached House
- Off Road Parking
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Well Maintained
- Downstairs W/C

£119,950

DUDLEY
SLEDMORE ROAD
- Semi Detached
- 3 Bedrooms
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Well Maintained
- Loft Room
- Double Glazing & Gas Cebtral Heating

£119,950

WEDNESBURY
MANOR HOUSE ROAD
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached
- Bathroom
- Lounge
- Rear Garden
- Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Driveway

£121,000

TIPTON
GOSPEL OAK ROAD
- Three Bedroom Terrace with En-Suite
- Two Further Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Bathroom
- Kitchen
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Master Bedroom

£122,950

WEST BROMWICH
WHITGREAVE STREET
- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Small Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Driveway

£123,950

TIPTON
BILSTON ROAD
- Three Bed Semi-Detached
- Veranda
- Two Reception Rooms
- Three Bedrooms
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Garage

£124,950

WEDNESBURY
CHARLOTTE ROAD
- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Bathroom
- Fitted Kitchen
- Block Paved Driveway

£124,950

WEDNESBURY
HAWKSWOOD DRIVE
- Semi Detached
- 3 Bedrooms
- Study
- Conservatory
- Gas Cebtral Heating
- Double Glazing
- Off Road Parking

£134,950

WEST BROMWICH
STANLEY ROAD
- Semi Detached
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Two Reception Rooms
- Family Bathroom
- Conservatory
- Extended and
- Off Road Parking

£169,950

WEST BROMWICH
BIRD END
- Four Bedroom Dormer Bungalow
- Two Bathrooms
- Two Recption Rooms
- Large Conservatory
- Kitchen
- Dining Room
- Garage & Driveway

£234,950

WEST BROMWICH
THE BANTOCKS
- 4 Bedroom Detached
- Lounge
- Dining/Sitting Room
- Extended Kitchen
- Ground Floor Shower Room
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom

£254,995

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SANDFIELD ROAD, B71 3NH NEW
- A Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking
- Freehold

£129,000

EDWIN PHILLIPS DRIVE, B71 2AZ
- A Modern Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Garage

£154,950

WOODWARD STREET, B71 4AP NEW
- A Detached Bungalow
- Two Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Garage

£230,000

PIERCY STREET, B70 9PH
- An End Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- C/H & D/G
- Freehold

£124,950

CRANKHALL LANE, WS10 0EQ
- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking
- Conservatory, Freehold

£115,000

JAYNE CLOSE, B71 3LP REDUCED
- A Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Garage
- Freehold

£122,000

SHERIDAN STREET, B71 4EF
- A Mid Terrace Property
- Two/Three Bedroomed
- Two Reception Rooms
- Downstairs Shower Room

£112,500

HYDES ROAD, B71 2EG REDUCED
- A Three Bedroom Detached House
- Off Road Parking and Garage
- No Upward Chain
- Central Heating and Majority Double Glazing

£165,000

DAGGER LANE, B71 4BT NEW
- Detached Dormer Bungalow
- Four Bedrooms
- C/H & D/G
- Off Road Parking

£290,000

LYNDHURST ROAD, B71 3JF
- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- C/H & D/G, Freehold

£149,995

CHARLEMONT CRESCENT, B71 3DA
- A Detached Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Garages
- Freehold

£230,000

HOLLYHEDGE ROAD, B71 3AL
- A Semi Detached House
- Two Reception Rooms
- Three Bedrooms
- Freehold

£159,950

HOBART ROAD, DY4 9LZ TO LET NEW
- A Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Six Months Tenancy Agreement
- Credit/Reference Check Required

£550 PCM £550 DEPOSIT

HOPKINS DRIVE, B71 3RT TO LET
- A Detached Property
- Four Bedrooms
- No DSS, No Smoking, No Pets
- Credit/Reference Checks Required

£700 PCM £700 DEPOSIT

WYNDMILL CRESCENT, B71 3QY TO LET
- A First Floor Maisonette
- Two Bedroom
- No Pets, No Smokers
- Credit/Reference Required

£480 PCM £480 DEPOSIT

DAWES AVENUE, B70 7LR TO LET NEW
- A Mid Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Unfurnished
- Non Smokers

£550 PCM £550 DEPOSIT

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2 Welesley Road Oldbury — £550pcm

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48 Gough Drive Great Bridge — £450pcm

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4 Cinnamon Court Bilston — £525pcm

Plot 19 Batmans Hill Cosely — £575pcm

35 Cardanal Close Birmingham — £1,295pcm

1 Thunderbolt Way Tipton — £625pcm

279 Slade Road Erdington — £600pcm

1 Esher Road West Bromwich — £350pcm

84 Stoney Lane West Bromwich — £525pcm

6 Cecil Drive Tividale — £550pcm

60 Tresham Road Great Barr — £600pcm

49 Lily Street West Bromwich — £550pcm

94 Murdock Road Handsworth — £650pcm

101 Church Lane West Bromwich — £500pcm

2 Siskin Drive Balsall Heath — £650pcm

125 Spon Lane West Bromwich — £99,950

11 Hallam Street West Bromwich — £150,000

8 Thornton Close Tividale — £168,000

48 Holly Lane Smethwick — £190,000

90 Mcdonald Close Tividale — £195,000

Edwin Phillips Drive West Bromwich — £119,950

17 Monkgate Drive West Bromwich — £85,000

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MUCKLOW HILL, HALESOWEN

Spacious detached & character filled cottage
17ft farmhouse style breakfast kitchen
Lounge diner with inglenook style fireplace
2 bedrooms & large family bathroom
Large garage with store above & workshop behind
Lawned gardens, drive & GCH & double glazing
Ref: D1058

£295,000

EDENHALL ROAD, QUINTON

Extended & spacious home with garage
17ft lounge & 13ft dining room
3 good sized bedrooms & bathroom
South westerly rear aspect
In need of modernisation
No upward chain
Ref: D1061

£205,000

WINDSOR ROAD, OLDBURY

Extended 3 bedroom detached home
Refitted & extended 21ft breakfast kitchen
Utility room & refitted downstairs shower room
Refitted bathroom & 3 bedrooms on first floor
Driveway for 2 cars to front & large garage to rear
Immaculately presented internally & externally
Ref: D1059

£198,000

KENDAL RISE, OLDBURY

Link 3 bed detached home with conservatory
Lounge with feature fireplace, d/s WC
Extended refitted dining kitchen with appliances
Utility/office or playroom (former garage)
Driveway & gardens to front with ample parking
GCH & UPVC DBG (majority) & alarm system
Ref: D1054

£185,000

HIGGINS LANE, QUINTON

Extended & detached home with 19ft garage
Extended 18ft breakfast kitchen & D/S WC
3 bedrooms & bathroom on first floor
Newly fitted low energy combination boiler (2011)
Extensive driveway & 19ft garage
Lawned garden to rear with pation & southerly aspect
Ref: D1060

£164,950

BISSELL STREET, QUINTON

Immaculate 2 bedroom Victorian style mews home
Custom made timber Georgian Bar windows
13ft breakfast kitchen - old brew house to rear
2 separate reception rooms & lean to study/room
2 bedrooms & refitted bathroom with white suite
GCH - must be viewed to be appreciated
Ref: D1055

£134,950

WOODNORTON ROAD, ROWLEY REGIS

Three bed extended semi-det home
25ft lounge diner leading to conservatory
Extended 17ft kitchen to rear
Block paved driveway to front - workshop to rear
UPVC double glazing & gas central heating
Off road parking for several vehicles
Ref D1056

£129,950

MAX ROAD, QUINTON

3 bed semi in need of modernisation
2 separate reception rooms with fireplaces
13ft kitchen to rear & 39ft side verandah
Benefits from a downstairs WC
Lawned garden to rear with garage
No upward chain - vacant possession
Ref: D1057

£124,950

BARSTON ROAD, OLDBURY

Traditional 3 bed semi detached home
15ft 7 lounge & 9ft dining room
Fitted kitchen with built in oven & hob
Majority UPVC d/g & part night storage heating
Lawned rear garden with patio area
Gravelled frontage - potential for driveway
Ref: D1049

£129,950

RIDGACRE ROAD WEST, QUINTON

Spacious 4 bed home with en-suite & d/s WC
28ft lounge diner & study & UPVC sun room
35ft fitted breakfast kitchen & sep utility room
Blockpaved & gated driveway & garage
Garden with private aspect & large patio
No upward chain
Ref: D1016

£359,950

PERRY HILL ROAD, OLDBURY

Spacious extended 4 bed semi-det home
19ft 7 x 13ft 10 kitchen diner, DWC
Lounge, sitting rm & study/playroom
4 bedrooms & bathroom
Off road parking, garden & garage
GCH, UPVC d/g & security system
Ref: D1037

£217,950

LONG LANE, HALESOWEN

Extended well presented 4 bed home
Fitted breakfast kitchen with appliances
Lounge diner & large UPVC conservatory
Four bedrooms & family bathroom fitted
Blockpaved driveway to front
UPVC double glazing & GCH fitted
Ref: D947

£169,950

MONCKTON ROAD, OLDBURY

Semi detached home with garage
Lounge & separate dining room
3 bedrooms, bathroom & WC
Paved driveway giving off road parking
Extensive rear garden
UPVC DG, GCH & security system
Ref: D923

Offers over £160,000

BISHOPS WALK, HALESOWEN BORDER

Five bedroom home with double garage
No upward chain - vacant possession
Lounge, sep dining room & study
Breakfast kitchen, utility room & d/s WC
Master bed with en-suite shower room
Fitted with UPVC d/g & GCH
Ref: D1001

£299,950

KENELM COURT, ROMSLEY

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Ref: D758

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* Breakfast kitchen
* Fitted cloakroom
* No upward chain

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* Kitchen * Cloakroom
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Alfa revives a pedigree with chic and charisma

By Peter Carroll

AS ALFA ROMEO prepares to celebrate its 100th anniversary in June, the Italian firm's latest model revives one of the most evocative names from its glorious past: The Giulietta.

Few car companies can match Alfa Romeo for sporting pedigree and it remains by some distance the most glamorous of the mainstream marques.

But pedigree and glamour count for little unless you are shifting metal – and these days loss-making Alfa needs to start selling more cars in order to remain viable.

With that in mind the Turin-based firm has revived the Giulietta, one of the most charismatic names from its distinguished heritage, to do battle in the cut-throat mid-sized hatchback sector of the market.

While Alfas of old were traditionally all about driver appeal and effortless chic, these days the more workmanlike qualities of solidity and reliability are required too.

Still, there's enough Italian flair and style about the design of the Giulietta to keep the most ardent of Alfisti happy, from the chiselled front, with its 8C-style compact grille, to the elegantly rounded proportions of the rear.

From the side, it admittedly resembles a SEAT Leon but then that was designed by Alfa old boy Walter de'Silva anyway.

The new Giulietta is some 16 per cent bigger than its predecessor, the 147, which probably does not count for much, as space was never a plus point in the former.

The Giulietta does feel slightly tight for space in the back but at least there's a decent sized boot, which you open by pressing the Alfa badge.

The cabin is not as dramatic as that of the Brera, or even the 159, but is nevertheless stylish and distinguished by a row of centrally located toggle switches with a designer feel.

Interior quality looks decent, though you'd ideally need to own one for a few months to see if it remained free of rattles and squeaks.

The leather seats in the test car, a top-of-the-range 170hp Veloce 2.0 litre diesel, were good and I found it easy to get comfortable behind the wheel – something that could not be said of every Alfa in the past.

If, like me, you tend to associate Alfas with revvy engines and light, deft steering, you'll find neither present in the Veloce diesel. The soundtrack from under the bonnet is more mundane, while the steering is accurate but on the weighty side – and it gets even heavier if you press the Dynamic button on the "DNA" selector panel.

This panel, under the centre console, offers a choice of three driver settings, depending on road conditions.

The "A" position is for adverse weather conditions, while the default setting is "N" for normal. "D" for is "Dynamic" and employed when drivers wish to press on.

The throttle response becomes notably sharper and the car feels far quicker when this setting is engaged.

Not everyone will appreciate the extra steering weight that comes into play, however, and none of the settings can be customised.

All models in the Giulietta range benefit from Alfa's clever electronic Q2 differential which adjusts the power directed to the front wheels to boost traction through bends.

Competitive

Driven carefully, it should be possible to return 50mpg but hey, this is an Alfa and my consumption ended up in the low 40s, as I had it in "D" most of the time.

Running costs should be reasonable. The Giulietta can be driven frugally, CO2 emissions are competitive, and service intervals extend to over 20,000 miles. Insurance for the 170hp model is group 25 out of 50 but this falls to group 20 if the 140hp model is chosen, and it's only slightly less quick.

The Giulietta feels solid and assured on the road rather than nervous and flighty. Ride quality is good and the car makes a decent fist of soaking up the bumps.

Too often in the past Alfas have represented the triumph of style over substance with poor reliability and inferior build quality leading to catastrophic residual values.

But the firm looks to be turning things round with cars like the MiTo and now the Giulietta. It's still too early to tell whether the Giulietta has the staying power to transform the fortunes of the loss-making, Fiat-owned brand – but it certainly possesses enough panache to appeal as an alternative to the ubiquitous Focus, Golf or Astra hatchback offerings. There are plenty of other "boutique" offerings in this sector, however, ranging from the excellent value Citroen DS3 and forthcoming DS4 to Audi's A1 and VW's shapely Scirocco.

Alfa Romeo expects diesel Giuliettas to outsell petrol models in the UK, to the sort of driver who has to buy with the head as well as the heart.

But if you like the idea of an Alfa I still think you'd be better off – emotionally, if not financially – with a petrol Giulietta.

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2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
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public & legal notices

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF SANDWELL (WALSALL ROAD, WEST BROMWICH) (TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE, 20MPH SPEED RESTRICTION AND GAP CLOSURE) ORDER 2011

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Borough Council of Sandwell intends, in accordance with the provisions of Sections 14 and 15 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, not less than seven days from the date of this Notice, to make an Order, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any vehicle from:
   (a) proceeding in Walsall Road, West Bromwich, from its junction with Sandy Lane to its junction with Greenside Way
   (b) proceeding at a speed in excess of 20MPH in Walsall Road, West Bromwich, from its junction with Sandy Lane to its junction with Greenside Way
   (c) proceeding through the gap in the central reservation on Walsall Road, West Bromwich, immediately north of Ray Hall Viaduct.
2. The alternative route for vehicles during the closure of Walsall Road will be as follows:-
   Southbound traffic will be diverted via West Bromwich Road, Broadway, Birmingham Road, Newton Road, Heath Lane and Walsall Road.
   Northbound traffic will be diverted via Walsall Road, Lyndhurst Road, Hollyhedge Road, Newton Road, Birmingham Road, Broadway and West Bromwich Road.
3. The purpose and reason for the Order is to facilitate repairs to the Ray Hall Viaduct.
4. The Order will take effect on 11th June 2011, and it is anticipated that the works may commence on that day. It is anticipated that the temporary restrictions will be operational as and when required only, with closures being at night only. However, the works are expected to be completed by 11th June 2012. The Order may continue in force for a period not exceeding 18 months, or until the works in connection with the Order have been completed, whichever is the sooner.
5. Any queries about the works to take place should be directed to Imran Khan of Amey on telephone number 0121 212 5142. Any queries about the effect of the order on traffic using the highway should be directed to Keith Sansom, Traffic and Road Safety Manager, Environment House, Lombard Street, West Bromwich B70 8RU (Telephone 0121 569 4149).

THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF SANDWELL (BURNT TREE, TIPTON) (TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE AND COMPULSORY LEFT TURN) ORDER 2011

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Borough Council of Sandwell intends, in accordance with the provisions of Sections 14 and 15 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, not less than seven days from the date of this Notice, to make an Order, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any vehicle from:-
   (a) proceeding in Burnt Tree, Tipton, from its junction with Coneygree Road to its junction with A4123 New Birmingham Road. It is anticipated that this will take effect on 7th June 2011 to the 13th June 2011 inclusive, between the hours of 8.00pm and 6.00am.
   (b) making a right turn from Burnt Tree, Tipton, into the A4123 New Birmingham Road, or to continue straight on into the A461 towards Dudley. It is anticipated that this will take effect on the 31st May 2011 for five days, between the hours of 8.00pm and 6.00am.
2. The alternative route for vehicles during the closure of Burnt Tree will be via Sedgley Road East, Cleton Street, Groveland Road, Dudley Road West, Hill Road, New Birmingham Road, and vice versa.
3. The purpose and reason for the Order is to facilitate works associated with the Burnt Tree (A461/A4123) Junction Improvement Scheme.
4. The Order will take effect on 31st May 2011, and it is anticipated that the works may commence on that day. The works are expected to be completed on 13th June 2011. The Order may continue in force for a period not exceeding 18 months, or until the works in connection with the Order have been completed, whichever is the sooner.
5. Any queries about the works to take place should be directed to David Crisp on telephone number 0121 569 4162. Any queries about the effect of the order on traffic using the highway should be directed to Keith Sansom, Traffic and Road Safety Manager, Environment House, Lombard Street, West Bromwich B70 8RU (Telephone 0121 569 4149).

THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF SANDWELL (BEARWOOD ROAD, SMETHWICK) (TEMPORARY ONE-WAY) AND (THREE SHIRES OAK ROAD, SMETHWICK) (TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2011

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Borough Council of Sandwell, in accordance with the provisions of Sections 14 and 15 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, has made an Order, the effect of which will be to:-
   Phase One
   temporarily prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in a southerly direction in Bearwood Road, Smethwick, between its junctions with Dawson Street/Waterloo Road and Three Shires Oak Road/Sandon Road, which will have the effect of making this part of Bearwood Road a one-way street. It is anticipated that this phase will be in operation from 30th May 2011 for approximately 10 weeks.
   Phase Two
   temporarily prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in a southerly direction in Bearwood Road, Smethwick, between its junctions with Three Shires Oak Road/Sandon Road and Hagley Road West/Hagley Road, which will have the effect of making this part of Bearwood Road a one-way street. It is anticipated that this phase will be in operation from 25th July 2011 for approximately 8 weeks.
   Phase Three
   temporarily prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in Three Shires Oak Road, Smethwick, from its junction with Bearwood Road to its junction with Thimblemill Road/Wigorn Road. It is anticipated that this phase will be in operation from 10th October 2011 for approximately 2 weeks.
2. The alternative route for vehicles during each phase will be as follows:-
   Phase One
   Via Church Road, Stanhope Road, Thimblemill Road and Three Shires Oak Road.
   Phase Two
   Via Sandon Road, Barnsley Road, and Hagley Road
   Phase Three
   Via Bearwood Road, Church Road, Stanhope Road, Thimblemill Road and vice versa, and Wigorn Road, St Mary's Road, Bearwood Road, and vice versa.
3. The purpose and reason for the Order is to facilitate works to renew cast iron water supply pipes.
4. The Order will take effect on 30th May 2011, and it is anticipated that the works may commence on that day. The works are expected to be completed on 24th October 2011. The Order may continue in force for a period not exceeding 18 months, or until the works in connection with the Order have been completed, whichever is the sooner.
5. Any queries about the works to take place should be directed to Joe Wright of South Staffs Water on telephone number 0800 389 1011. Any queries about the effect of the order on traffic using the highway should be directed to Keith Sansom, Traffic and Road Safety Manager, Environment House, Lombard Street, West Bromwich B70 8RU (Telephone 0121 569 4149).

THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF SANDWELL

(AREA NO. 7 WEDNESBURY, GREAT BARR AND WEST BROMWICH) (TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER NO. 8) 2011

The Borough Council of Sandwell in exercise of its powers under Sections 1, 2, 45 and 46 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers and after consulting with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984 proposes to make an Order which will have the effect of revoking The Borough Council of Sandwell (Area No. 7 Wednesbury, Great Barr and West Bromwich) (Traffic Regulation Order No. 7) 2010 and introducing the following amendments:-

1. To extend no waiting at any time in part of Brunswick Terrace, Clifton Lane, Maple Drive, Sundial Lane, Walsall Street, Wilford Road, parts of Wilderness Lane and the entire length of both sides of Ferndale Avenue.
2. To delete no waiting at any time in part of the south side of Connor Road and no stopping at School entrances on Mondays-Fridays on the same side of Connor Road between the hours of 8.00 am - 4.00 pm and replace with Red Route no stopping at any time in the entire south side of Connor Road.
3. To replace sections of the current pay and display on the north and south sides of Stafford Street with no waiting at any time in the same sections of road.
4. To introduce no waiting at any time in parts of Appleton Avenue, Barncroft Street, Birchfield Way, Blakedon Road, Bramley Road, Carrisbrooke Road, Gleneagles Drives, Lodge Hill Road, Orwell Drive, Plane Tree Road, Ravenhurst Drive, Salters Lane, Warstone Drive, Whittington Close and part of Darlaston Road, Hawkins Street, Manor Road, New Street North, Smithmoor Crescent, Spouthouse Lane.
5. To extend no waiting at any time in the north side of Mounts Road and introduce no loading Monday to Saturdays 8.00 am - 6.00 pm in parts of the north west and south eastern side of Mounts Road.
6. To extend no stopping at school entrances Mondays to Fridays 8.00 am - 4.00 pm in the south side of Birchfield Way and to introduce the same provisions to the east side of Bramley Road and the west side of Plane Tree Road.
7. To introduce a residents only parking scheme at any time in part of Hollies Drive.

A copy of the draft Order, the Order to be revoked, a statement of reasons for making the Order and maps showing the roads affected may be examined at the offices of the Director of Legal and Governance Services, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands B69 3DE between the hours of 8.00 am - 5.30 pm on Mondays to Thursdays and 8.00 am - 5.00 pm on Fridays. Plans are also available to view on the Council's website.

Any person wishing to make an objection or representation to the proposed Order must do so in writing stating the grounds of their objections to the Traffic and Road Safety Manager, Environment House, Lombard Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands B70 8RU or by e mail to highways@sandwell.gov.uk by no later than 16th June 2011

THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF SANDWELL (PLANT STREET, CRADLEY HEATH) (ONE-WAY TRAFFIC) ORDER 2011

The Borough Council of Sandwell, in exercise of its powers under Sections 1 and 2 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) ("the Act") and of all other enabling powers and after having consulted the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, proposes to make the following Order:-

1. Except as provided in Paragraph 2 below no person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed in Plant Street from its junction with Reddal Hill Road to the junction of Plant Street adjacent to No. 8 other than in a south easterly direction.
2. Nothing in paragraph 1 shall apply:
   a) to a motor vehicle when used in connection with the Police, Ambulance or Fire Brigade in pursuance of their statutory powers or duties.
   b) to anything done with the permission or at the direction of a Police Officer in uniform.
3. A copy of the draft Order, a statement of reasons for making the Order, and a map indicating the location and effect of the order, may be examined at the offices of the Director of Legal and Governance Services, Sandwell Council House, Oldbury, West Midlands B69 3DE, during normal office hours.
4. Any person wishing to object to the proposed Order may do so in writing to Mr Keith Sansom, Traffic & Road Safety Manager, Environment House, Lombard Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands B70 8RU or e-mail highways@sandwell.gov.uk specifying the grounds of their objection by 16th June 2011.

THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF SANDWELL (ABBOTSFORD AVENUE, GREAT BARR) (TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2011

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Borough Council of Sandwell, in accordance with the provisions of Sections 14 and 15 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, has made an Order, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in the entire length of Abbotsford Avenue, Great Barr.
2. The alternative route for vehicles will be via Birmingham Road, Scott Road, Whitecrest and either Marmion Drive, Rokeby Road, Lammermoor Avenue or Peveril Way, to gain access to frontages on Abbotsford Avenue.
3. The purpose and reason for the Order is to facilitate works on the overhead cables on behalf of National Grid.
4. The Order will take effect on 4th June 2011, and it is anticipated that the works may commence on that day. The works are expected to be completed on 19th June 2011. The Order may continue in force for a period not exceeding 18 months, or until the works in connection with the Order have been completed, whichever is the sooner.
5. Any queries about the works to take place should be directed to Errol Palmer on telephone number 0115 964 7800. Any queries about the effect of the order on traffic using the highway should be directed to Keith Sansom, Traffic and Road Safety Manager, Environment House, Lombard Street, West Bromwich B70 8RU (Telephone 0121 569 4149).

THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF SANDWELL (ROOD END ROAD, OLDBURY) (TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2011

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Borough Council of Sandwell in accordance with the provisions of Sections 14 and 15 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, has made an Order, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in Rood End Road, Oldbury, from its junction with Cemetery Road to its junction with Birmingham Road.
2. The alternative route for vehicles will be via Cemetery Road, St Pauls Road, Mallin Street, Oldbury Road, Birmingham Road, Popes Lane, Tat Bank Road, Rood End Road and vice versa.
3. The purpose and reason for the Order is to install a new foul run and manhole.
4. The Order will take effect on 30th May 2011, and it is anticipated that the works may commence on that day. The works are expected to be completed on 3rd June 2011. The Order may continue in force for a period not exceeding 18 months, or until the works in connection with the Order have been completed, whichever is the sooner.
5. Any queries about the works to take place should be directed to John Evans on behalf of M&J Evans Construction, on telephone number 01543 363746. Any queries about the effect of the order on traffic using the highway should be directed to Keith Sansom, Traffic and Road Safety Manager, Environment House, Lombard Street, West Bromwich B70 8RU (Telephone 0121 569 4149).

DATED this 19th day of May 2011
N SHARMA, Director of Legal and Governance Services
Sandwell Council House, Oldbury, West Midlands

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THE TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 2010
NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 6 OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

I give notice that Stoford Retail Limited and The Midlands Co-Operative Society are applying to Sandwell Council for planning permission for the development of 790sq.m of commercial floorspace to include a 416sq.m (gross) retail food convenience store and two other commercial units of 187sq.m at the former Hangman's Tree Public House, Regent Road, Tividale.

Any owner or tenant who wishes to make representation about this application should write to the Director of Planning at Sandwell Council, Planning, PO Box 42, Development House, Lombard Street, West Bromwich, B70 8RU. Representations must be made within 14 days of publication in this newspaper.

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Lee Mark Bernard & Gillian Bernard trading as Wolves Grab Hire of Whitehall Road, Penn, Wolverhampton, WV4 5TA is applying for licence to use KBF Commercials, Heath Road, Darlaston, WS10 8XE as an operating centre for 1 goods vehicle.

Owners of occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hill Crest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

LICENSING ACT 2003
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE

An application for a Premises Licence has been made by
The Principal, Michael Gernon, on behalf of the RSA Academy Trust and governing body
To Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council in respect of premises known as: **RSA Academy**
Which are situated at:
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The proposed application is as follows:
All forms of regulated entertainment between 0800 and midnight every day.
A record of the application may be inspected at the Environmental Health and Trading Standards Licensing Section, Development House, Lombard Street, West Bromwich during normal office hours Monday to Friday.
Any representations by interested parties or responsible authorities regarding the application must be made in writing to: The Licensing Team, Environment House, PO Box 42, Lombard Street West Bromwich, B70 8RU by the:
13th June 2011
It is an offence, liable on summary conviction to a fine up to Level 5 (£5000) on the standard scale, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with the application.

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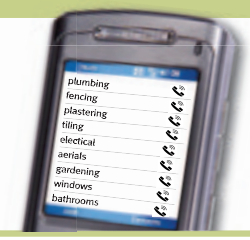

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Next season will be even tougher warns Albion ace

DOUBLE player of the year Youssouf Mulumbu has warned that surviving a second season in the Premier League will be even harder than the first.

The midfield star was crowned fans' and players' player of the season at the Baggies' end-of-season gala dinner at Birmingham's ICC on Sunday night.

And the DR Congo international warned his team-mates survival will be equally difficult next season after helping them to safety this term under Roy Hodgson.

"We will have our holidays, have a long rest and then come back ready for next season," said the 24-year-old. "It will be a hard season, maybe even harder than this season.

"But this season was hard and the target was achieved. Now, with the way we play, we can finish in the top half of the table."

Mulumbu picked up both main awards at Sunday's ceremony but dedicated his success to his Hawthorns colleagues.

He said: "I am happy and I must say thank-you to my team-mates and the staff. We all deserve it because we had a great season and we succeeded in reaching our target of staying in the Premier League.

Beautiful

"It's a beautiful day for me. I scored on Saturday (against Everton) and then I won two trophies. A lot of players could have won the trophies so winning them means you have done a good job.

"There is big pressure on me now because next season I have to improve and be an even better player to even get one trophy again.

"I work very hard in training and in games to be a good player. I knew it would be hard because it is the best league in the world, so I knew I had to be good to play against big players like Lampard or Gerrard.

"I was ready for that and we have now succeeded in our goal of staying in the Premier League.

"The goals I have scored are just a bonus for me and the team."

Mulumbu joined Albion in 2009 from Paris Saint Germain and his all-action midfield displays have made him a cult figure for the Baggies fans.

He said: "When I came here I didn't know much about Albion but then I saw the fans and the stadium and I have really enjoyed playing for the Baggies.

"Also the welcome from the fans and my team-mates was very important for me because I didn't know about England and the intensity or the way we're going to play. So I have to say thanks to my team-mates."

Baggies boss Roy Hodgson addresses supporters and sponsors

Stars stay put, says the boss

ROY Hodgson has no fears Albion chairman Jeremy Peace will sell off the Baggies' crown jewels in the summer.

The Baggies are on course to be crowned Kings of the West Midlands after a campaign which has seen star turns Peter Odemwingie, Youssouf Mulumbu and Chris Brunt grab the attention of rival clubs.

But as Albion prepare to reward top scorer Odemwingie with an improved deal, Peace told the guests at Sunday's end of season gala dinner that he was not interested in cashing in on any of Hodgson's key figures.

And having dealt with the Albion owner from the other side of the fence, Hodgson has no doubts he will stick to that policy.

Keeping

"I know from past experience of trying to get Jonathan Greening out of West Brom that the chairman is very keen on keeping the players that he wants to keep and who are under contract," said the Baggies head coach.

"I don't need assurances. I've never even broached the subject with him. The battle for Greening made me realise that West Brom don't release players they don't want to let go."

Hodgson again praised sporting and technical director Dan Ashworth's growing network which unearthed Odemwingie and co but warns the task of digging out gems gets harder each year.

"Dan Ashworth and his scouting staff must take credit for finding him (Mulumbu) and also Odemwingie and Somen Tchoyi," said Hodgson. "Players have come into the club for very small sums of money and have succeeded.

"If you get it right – and the way he's got it right with Mulumbu and Odemwingie – he's got to be very happy.

"But it gets more difficult because every club is chasing the same goal."

Albion finish at Newcastle on Sunday determined to stay in front of Villa, who are a point behind as they close with a home game against Liverpool.

Hodgson said: "It's been a pretty good spell, 19 points from 11 games. An average of two points per game is like Manchester United, isn't it?

"I've got to say it has been a wonderful season."

Award tribute for fan Steve

THE family of Baggies Supporter of the Year Steve Dye collected an emotional award on his behalf at Albion's end-of-season dinner, just a month after he passed away.

When Albion held their awards ceremony the family of Steve, from Kidderminster, were present to collect a fitting tribute to him.

They received the trophy on his behalf in front of more than 900 fans and sponsors. He died in April from a rare form of cancer and friend Lisa Bevan, who nominated him for the award, led the tributes.

She said: "Steve has been a diehard Baggie for 45 years. At the end of last season Steve discovered he had cancer. He carried on attending the football, never missing a home match.

"He was always behind the team, giving them all his support until unfortunately Steve passed away a day before the Chelsea home match on April 16, 2011.

"He left behind two lads, a wife and a brother, who have all still attended the matches in his honour.

"I believe Steve should be honoured for his commitments to the Baggies and his bravery."

The competition was run in conjunction with Beacon Radio, who asked listeners to vote for the winner after deciding on the top-10 nominations from hundreds of entries.

Ashley Dye, Paul Dye and Adam Dye receive the Fan of the Season award on behalf of Steve Dye from Beacon Radio's John Trifonos, centre, and Adrian Chiles

Praise for Di Matteo too at the club's glitzy dinner

MORE than 900 fans and sponsors attended a glitzy Albion prize-giving dinner at Birmingham's ICC on Sunday and saw midfielder Youssouf Mulumbu pick up the top two awards.

And there was an emotional fan of the year award for tragic supporter Steve Dye, of Kidderminster, who died last month after a year-long battle with cancer. His family collected the trophy on his behalf while another Baggies supporter, charity runner 'Blind Dave' Heeley, was recognised for his community work.

Fans paid more than £80 per seat to attend the event, which was hosted by celebrity Albion fan and TV presenter Adrian Chiles.

Midfield star Mulumbu was the night's big winner as he picked up both the fans' and players' player of the year awards. The DR Congo international beat leading scorer Peter Odemwingie and captain Chris Brunt into second and third place respectively in the supporters' poll.

Strengthen

Odemwingie collected the top goalscorer's trophy, teenage defender James Hurst was named young player of the year and Simon Cox claimed the goal of the season prize for his spectacular strike to earn a draw at Tottenham on April 23.

The historic 3-2 win at Arsenal in September was named performance of the year while Baggies fan 'Blind Dave', who was unable to attend the ceremony, won the award for contribution to the community for his tireless fundraising runs for charity.

The event opened with a speech from chairman Jeremy Peace, who spoke publicly for the first time about the sacking of Roberto Di Matteo in February.

"I am delighted at what we have achieved, particularly as we might still finish as the highest-placed West Midlands club," said Peace. "Next season will, as ever, be even more competitive and our main aim this summer will be to keep the core of our squad together and strengthen it to ensure we are able to compete again next season.

"My thanks go to Roberto Di Matteo, only our fourth head coach or manager in 11 years, for getting us back to the Premier League and for overseeing such a bright start to the campaign. Unfortunately this is a results-driven industry and we felt compelled to make a change in early February after a poor run of form.

"This decision was not taken lightly. As we know, this led to the arrival of Roy Hodgson and the rest is history.

"We firmly believe Roy's many qualities made him an ideal fit for our football club.

"It goes without saying that our supporters have again played a big role this season and my thanks go to them for their tremendous backing, both home and away.

"The football side of our business continues to develop under the guidance of our sporting and technical Director, Dan Ashworth, to whom I give my grateful thanks.

"This includes the scouting and recruitment department, which will play a huge role in us achieving our desired goal of sustainable Premier League football.

"We have to think outside the box to make sure our resources go further because it is impossible for us to compete on financial terms with bigger clubs in this division.

"The imposition of a 25-man squad in the Premier League has helped our approach to the transfer market, which is to focus on quality over quantity."

Head coach Hodgson also addressed the crowd, paying tribute to his players' efforts during the run-in.

Hodgson said: "I hope I am standing here again next year representing a Premier League club as that is where this club deserves to be."

Three-piece singing group Incognito provided entertainment and the evening ended with players mingling with fans and signing autographs.

Bent shows true class

IF Gerard Houllier rides off into the sunset this summer, his legacy to Villa can be summed up in two words – Darren Bent.

ARSENAL 1
VILLA 2

For various reasons the Frenchman has largely divided the Villa fanbase and, although he was not at the Emirates Stadium for this Bent-inspired victory, Houllier more than played his part.

At a time when Villa were really struggling, Houllier was able to persuade the Villa hierarchy that they should break the records to splash out £24m on a player who had the stattos licking their lips but perhaps still had a missing 'X-factor' from his game.

And since his move from Sunderland, the arch-goal poacher has maximised his talent to such an extent that even Simon Cowell would recognise he is the best in the goalscoring business.

Yes, Bent already had strong credentials before he moved to Villa Park but it is clear he has stepped up his performances a few notches and Villa's management team must take some of the credit.

Not only did Houllier have the nous to sign Bent for what now looks a bargain price, but he has improved him has a player. The work at Bodymoor Heath, both tactical and physical, has turned Bent from a top-class Premier League player to a player of true international quality.

For all the merits of Didier Drogba, Fernando Torres and Andy Carroll, it is clear to see that Bent is now the best finisher around by a good distance.

Whether Houllier is around to reap the rewards of his acquisition remains to be seen but Bent will be an important factor in what Villa achieve next season.

Volley

Bent was employed as a lone striker and showed his more instinctive finishing qualities in the ninth minute when a Villa corner was cleared to Kyle Walker just inside Arsenal's half. The on-loan Tottenham full-back picked out Bent with a lofted ball and Villa's record signing controlled the ball on his chest and lifted a volley over Arsenal 'keeper Wojciech Szczesny.

Villa fans were in dreamland six minutes later when they went two goals up thanks to another superbly-executed strike from Bent. James Collins pinged a free-kick from Villa's half into Ashley Young, who capitalised on a slip by Arsenal centre-back Thomas Vermaelen and had the time and space to turn before he played a pinpoint ball for Bent to run on to.

The England international coolly smashed a low drive past Szczesny from near the penalty spot which gave the Polish goalkeeper no chance as Bent netted his ninth since joining the club.

Bent had been offside more times than any other player in the Premier League this season but for both strikes he hung on the shoulder of the defender before putting the ball in the net.

From that point it was Arsenal who dominated possession and chances as Villa were predictably forced on to the back foot. Luckily, Gary McAllister's decision to employ a Maginot Line of midfielders in Stiliyan Petrov, Nigel Reo-Coker and Fabian Delph paid off as Villa's defence was given an extra defensive shield.

Arsenal had a penalty shout in the 30th minute when Robin van Persie broke into the box and a clumsy Richard Dunne failed to get a touch on the ball as he made a last-ditch tackle.Fortunately for Dunne, referee Michael Oliver was in a good mood. Dutch international van Persie went close again five minutes later when he turned Collins before striking the base of the post.

Bent had another chance immediately after the break after Alex Song slipped but Vermaelen was able to keep pace with the striker and his shot from outside the box lacked real venom.

Andrey Arshavin brought a smart save out of Brad Friedel as he cut inside on to his right foot and smashed a low shot which the veteran did well to hold.

Arsenal should have had one back in the 57th minute when Kieran Gibbs played a neat one-two with van Persie but Friedel saved well.

Arsenal had the ball in the net in the 76th minute when a high ball into the box was met by Marouane Chamakh's head but the referee chalked it off for the slightest of pushes on Walker. Villa had got lucky. Wenger's side continued to press for the rest of the game and pulled a goal back in the 89th minute when Bacary Sagna's cross from the right was met by Nicklas Bendtner and van Persie scrambled it home. But Villa hung on.

TALKING POINT

CONTRACT DECISIONS:

Ashley Young and Nigel Reo-Coker **both threw their shirts into the away end** after the full-time whistle, which perhaps signals that their time at the club is set to come to an end.

Reo-Coker is a free agent in the summer while Young has 12 months left on his contract and seems likely to leave Villa in the near future, with Liverpool seemingly the most likely destination. Both players have been solid performers **for Villa this season and the claret and** blues must make sure they replace them with players who are of equal, or preferably, better standing.

Luckily Villa are well stocked with **central midfielders, which will cushion** the potential departure of Reo-Coker, but the creative talents of Young will be much **harder to replace. Villa's hand is slightly** stronger over the future of goalkeeper Brad Friedel but if even if they are looking to sign a new No1, they could do **worse than keep the veteran American** judging by his performance at the Emirates.

Of course, all of the above is linked to the managerial situation and Villa's **board need to clarify things concerning Gerard Houllier, and quickly, to avoid a** repeat of last summer's uncertainty.

The final game...

LIVERPOOL (H) SUNDAY

After a surprise but excellent victory at Arsenal, Villa can send their fans into the summer on a high with another win against a top-six Premier League side.

SPEEDWAY

BIRMINGHAM 51 COVENTRY 39

BEN Barker produced a blistering performance against his former club to help lift the Brummies into the Elite League's top four with victory over local rivals Coventry at Perry Barr.

Barker, who won the title with the Bees last season, dropped just two points from six rides and was fully involved in the late races which broke the visitors' resistance.

Early on, it was guest Dennis Andersson who did the damage as the Swede shared in two Birmingham 5-1s in Heats 2 and 3 which gave them control. But when Claus Vissing crashed out of Heat 7, Coventry took advantage with a 5-1 in the re-run, and then Edward Kennett snatched a win on the line from Barker in Heat 9 as part of a succession of shared races which left the gap at two points with four heats to go.

Barker and Andersson eased the nerves by racing clear of Ryan Fisher in Heat 12, and they repeated the feat in Heat 14 against Kenni Larsen to secure all three points. Between those races was a stunning effort from guest Rory Schlein in Heat 13, who had been overtaken by Chris Harris around the outside but repeated the move himself coming off turn four on the last lap for a terrific victory.

BIRMINGHAM 51: Ben Barker 15+1, Rory Schlein 12+1, Dennis Andersson 10+2, Daniel Nermark 9, Ales Dryml 3+1, Claus Vissing 2+1, Daniel King r/r. **COVENTRY 39:** Edward Kennett 10+1, Chris Harris 10, Kenni Larsen 9, Ryan Fisher 4+2, Richard Sweetman 4+1, Nick Morris 2, Przemyslaw Pawlicki r/r.

DUDLEY Heathen youngster Tom Perry has been selected to represent Great Britain in a prestigious meeting in Poland next month. Perry will travel out to Tarnow on June 18 to race in the semi-final of the UEM European Under-19 Junior Championship.

Heathens youngster Ashley Morris has returned from Germany with more experience under his belt after the European Under-19 qualifier. Morris, in fine form for the former Cradley club, notched six-points from five rides in Gustrow including a race win.

BIRMINGHAM LEAGUE CRICKET

In-form Darmouth joint top

WEST Bromwich Dartmouth maintained their good early season form after beating Wellington by 45 runs.

They top the Premier Division with Knowle and Dorridge after Ruki De Silva top-scored with 52.

Ateeq Javed hit 48 as the Sandwell Park outfit totalled 188 at Wellington. In reply, Wellington slumped to 143 all out.

Smethwick are still hunting a first win after losing to current champions Shrewsbury by eight wickets. Faisal Shahid (77) and Mo Usman (45) were the main contributors as Smethwick stuttered to 194-5 but Shrewsbury made 195-2 with ease.

Walsall beat Wolverhampton by seven wickets after Wolverhampton slipped from 120-2 to 151 all out. Anish Kapil (63) and Sundeep Patel (43) laid a good base for Wolves but Paul Byrne celebrated his return for Walsall with 5-57. Worcestershire's Jack Manuel (65) and veteran Paul Baker (38 not out) steered Walsall home.

Craig Wood (79 not out) and Chris Pyke (42) saw Kidderminster Victoria suffer a losing draw with Barnt Green after making 220-5. James Ralph hit 34 and Neil Pinner added 29. Barnt Green slipped to 42-3 before rallying to score 202-6.

Himley beat Leamington by 16 runs. They made 217-9 with Stuart Wedge top with 61 and Danny Smith then took 5-37 to dismiss Leamington for 201.

In Division One Old Hill slumped to 64 all out as they lost by six wickets to newly-promoted Berkswell. Relegated Walmley crushed much-fancied Wombourne by eight wickets in their clash.

Division Two leaders Cannock registered their second win of the season at Fordhouses. Adeel Khan took 4-27 as the Wolverhampton side were shot out for 108 before Dave Womble's unbeaten 46 steered Cannock to the summit.

Halesowen lost to Water Orton by six wickets despite posting 221. James Tandy (53) and Ajantha Weerrapuli (40) made good starts for Halesowen.

In Division Three Lichfield's Tom Stone took 6-32 as Penn were dismissed for 116, a total that Lichfield passed for the loss of five wickets. Bruce Thomason (92) and Chris Pearce (77) fired Brewood to 247-7 against Wednesbury, who had reached 46-5 in 29 overs before an early abandonment saved the visitors.

IN BRIEF

FOOTBALL: Sutton Coldfield Town FC lifted the Birmingham Senior Cup after a 1-0 victory over cup holders Nuneaton Town with the only goal coming in the 34th minute from Town's Jonathon Jones

RUGBY UNION: Perry Barr-based social rugby club Birmingham Barbarians have rounded off their 2010-11 campaign with a three day tour of Malta. The Barbarians lost out in blazing sunshine against Maltese champions-elect Valetta Lions 19-14.

RUGBY LEAGUE: Birmingham Bulldogs, despite being short of first choice players, had too much pace for a battling Leamington Royals outfit. Both teams made plenty of mistakes but the home side made more, reflected in the 46-26 scoreline. Bulldogs finished stronger with a brace of near identical tries straight from scrums by Jermaine Bernard.

CYCLE SPEEDWAY: Birminghm turned the screw on a weak Sandwell Lions side and went away with the Midland League points after winning 104-63 on Sunday.

All but one Birmingham rider scored double figures, having got into the lead n heat five and never losing it again. Sandwell's Lee Smith did his best to dent the visitors lead, winning four races to top score with 18 points.

thechronicle

sport

Youssouf Mulumbu receives the fans' player of the season award from Dave Bloxham, of BHP Design Ltd, and TV presenter and loyal Baggies fan Adrian Chiles. Mulumbu also won the players' award. But the midfield star warned fans that next season will be even tougher than this – see report on page 59

Baggies (1) 1 — Everton (0) 0

Mulumbu 10

Att 25,838

MATCH STATS

51%	Possession	49%
9 (4/5)	Shots on target	(6/4) 10
5 (2/3)	Shots off target	(6/7) 13
3 (1/2)	Offsides	(0/2) 2
15 (8/7)	Fouls	(5/4) 9
2 (1/1)	Corners	(6/6) 12
2	Yellow Cards	2
0	Red Cards	1

REFEREE: Anthony Taylor (Cheshire).

BAGGIES PLAYER STATS

1	Carson	(7 Catch 1 Block 1 Punch)
12	Reid	1 3 1 2
3	Olsson	5 2
30	Tamas	4 4 1
20	Shorey	1 3 1 2
11	Brunt	1 1 1 1 2 1
21	Mulumbu	1 1 1 1 1
33	Scharner	1 3 1 1 2 1 1
14	Thomas	1 3 1
31	Cox	1 1 2
24	Odemwingie	3 1 2 1 2 4

subs: 5 Tchoyi **1** **2** **for 14** [78 mins], 7 Morrison **1** **1** **1** **for 31** [67 mins], 28 Fortune **1** **for 11** [90 mins], **not used:** 13 Myhill, 10 Miller, 23 Meite, 36 Jara

EVERTON PLAYER STATS

24	Howard	(1 Catch 1 Block 1 Parry)
2	Hibbert	1 2 1 4 9
6	Jagielka	1 1 1 2
15	Distin	2 1 1
3	Baines	2 3 1 1 9
23	Coleman	1 1 1 1 2
5	Heitinga	2 2
18	Neville	1 1 1 1 2
10	Arteta	2 1 2 2
21	Osman	1 2 1 3
28	Anichebe	3 1 4 1 2

subs: 7 Bilyaletdinov **1** **1** **for 18** [72 mins], 16 Beckford **2** **2** **1** **for 23** [62 mins], 26 Rodwell **for 28** [80 mins], **not used:** 1 Mucha, 19 Gueye, 27 Vellios, 37 Baxter

Key to reading the player stats: defensive block defensive clearance shot on target shot off target Fouls committed Free-kicks won Caught offside Crosses

League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	37	17	1	0	45	10	5	10	4	29	25	77
Chelsea	37	14	3	2	39	13	7	5	6	30	19	71
Arsenal	37	11	4	4	33	15	8	6	4	37	26	67
Man City	36	12	4	2	31	12	7	4	7	24	21	65
Tottenham	37	8	9	1	28	18	7	5	7	25	27	59
Liverpool	37	12	4	3	37	14	5	3	10	22	29	58
Everton	37	8	7	3	30	23	4	8	7	20	22	51
Fulham	37	8	6	4	26	21	3	9	7	19	20	48
Stoke	36	10	4	4	31	17	3	3	12	15	27	46
Bolton	37	10	5	3	34	22	2	5	12	18	32	46
WEST BROM	**37**	**8**	**6**	**5**	**30**	**30**	**4**	**4**	**10**	**23**	**38**	**46**
Newcastle	37	6	7	5	38	24	5	5	9	15	30	45
Aston Villa	37	7	7	4	25	19	4	5	10	22	40	45
Sunderland	37	7	5	7	25	27	4	6	8	17	29	44
Blackburn	37	7	7	5	22	16	3	3	12	21	41	40
Wolverhampton	37	8	4	6	28	27	3	3	13	16	36	40
Birmingham	37	6	8	5	19	22	2	7	9	17	34	39
Blackpool	37	5	5	9	30	37	5	4	9	23	37	39
Wigan	37	5	8	6	22	34	3	7	8	17	27	39
West Ham	37	5	5	8	24	28	2	7	10	19	39	33

Baggies Next Match

Barclays Premier League: 22/05/2011

24,682	Average Attendance	47,497

Midfielder Youssouf Mulumbu strokes the ball past Tim Howard to give Albion a 1-0 victory against Everton *Pictures: Steve Leath*

Now to find the heirs apparent

FAREWELL then to The Hawthorns' best season of top-flight football since Bomber had a perm.

These days, it's Paul Scharner's barnet which catches the eye. But the blue and white imprint on this Premier League campaign has been a delight to watch.

Now, though, the task begins to seek out the ingredients which will enable the proud old stadium to witness even better next time around – and that is not going to be easy, *writes Martin Swain*.

The Baggies may have a hugely-respected and clearly-effective man at the helm in Roy Hodgson, while the unexpected reach of this outstanding season will have taken them up the food chain of Premier League predators.

But hemmed in by sub-30,000 attendances, Albion remain a club in search of a killing on the transfer market and, with that in mind, it was perhaps the man who wasn't there to witness this victory over Everton who is most significant.

Travels

Dan Ashworth's seat was empty, a sure sign that the club's sporting and technical director was once more on his travels to dig out another Odemwingie or Mulumbu.

It's not getting any easier for Ashworth because his reputation is beginning to spread and the cloak of anonymity which he used to relish has gone.

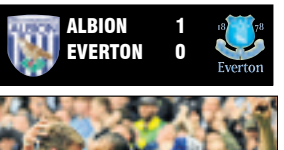
Nowadays, Albion's Premier League rivals are alert to his presence and keen to pick up whatever scent he is following.

But if – and it's a big if – the club can find the right recruits this summer to add to the 2011 blend, what a vintage we may be tasting a year from now.

This has been a magnificent effort from all at the club which deserves its place as the best of the M6 quartet.

Albion were a majority choice for relegation this season and they are touching a top-10 finish. Incredible.

To have done it with a style of football that shames the view that Premier League newcomers have to play the percentages to survive adds even more credence to their achievements.



Home celebrations after the goal from Youssouf Mulumbu, including Paul Scharner with his new Albion haircut

Well done Hodgson. And well done Di Matteo, lest we forget, who had the courage to risk his regime on a daring plot to keep the ball and attack more heavily-armed opposition. He floundered because, among other things, the Baggies were not strong enough in depth when injuries and suspensions began to take away his most important players.

That is the gap Hodgson and Ashworth will be endeavouring to fill this summer because, if this final home game told us anything, it was what a difference those three or four men can make.

Back came the recently-missing Steven Reid, Chris Brunt and Paul Scharner – all absent at Molineux when Albion caved in under their neighbour's searing desperation. I suspect it might have been a little different had they been available.

We shall never know for sure, of course, but the difference in Albion's defending against Everton was marked. I counted 10 set-pieces thrown into the "mix" by Everton in the opening half-hour – free-kicks, corners, long throws, the lot. And each one failed to yield a single chance as Scharner, particularly, added his height and distinctive hairline to the resistance.

In players such as Brunt, Youssouf Mulumbu, Jerome Thomas, James Morrison and the injured but potentially pivotal Graham Dorrans, Albion have highly adept midfield creators. They will try to find even better over the next few months.

But it is undoubtedly Peter Odemwingie who has given them something different, and he was the box of tricks The Hawthorns has come to relish against Everton.

By the time he combined speed, skill and surprising strength to set-up Mulumbu's match-winner in the 10th minute, he had already raced away and fired into the side netting to warn Sylvain Distin and Phil Jagielka of their afternoon's labours.

While Everton plodded, Odemwingie led electric breaks from the back.

Tim Howard stopped him scoring with one point-blank save, a goal-line clearance kept out an Odemwingie-like cut through by Thomas, Howard finger-tipped away a roasting free-kick from Brunt.

After the break the pattern remained the same, Everton beaten back without getting through to Scott Carson, Odemwingie springing forward to stretch and threaten the second goal. The only surprise was that it never arrived.

But the Baggies always made the better chances until Everton's frustrating afternoon was summed up as the last 15 minutes arrived.

On came Diniyar Bilyaletdinov for Phil Neville, promptly wasting his team's best chance with a poor finish from 15 yards.

Moments later, after barely five minutes on the pitch, the Russian was shown a red card for a late challenge on Morrison.

TALKING POINT

RARE CLEAN SHEET:

Based on this evidence, Wolves got a little lucky in the Black Country derby the previous week – they met Albion on just the right day.

The return of three pivotal figures in Paul Scharner, Chris Brunt and Steve Reid – all missing at Molineux – gave Albion the mix of dimensions missing in the 3-1 defeat, especially in the defending of set-pieces which proved so fragile and fallible against their neighbours.

But this was still only their first clean sheet for 35 games and that will be a focus of Roy Hodgson's pre-season preparations this summer.

Reputation

Albion have an enviable reputation as one of the Premier League's more stylish outfits but that does not mean they couldn't do with a bit of 'Stoke' in them at times – and if Hodgson can find either the system or the personnel to bolt on added steel at the back next season then who knows what this team might achieve?

More of the same please Albion when you return for 2011-12.

The final game...

NEWCASTLE (A) SUNDAY

It's party time!

With a Tony Brown tribute day in store, a pilgrimage to St James's Park is in the air where two of the promoted teams can celebrate defying all those who tipped them to go straight back down.

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SHIRELAND
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"Outstanding Again!"

Member of The Alice Story cast
with Sir Mark Grundy and Mrs Christine Gilbert

Mrs Christine Gilbert visits the academy

11 March 2011

Sir Mark Grundy
Executive Principal
Shireland Collegiate Academy
Waterloo Rd
Smethwick
West Midlands
B66 4ND

Christine Gilbert
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector

Dear Sir Mark,

I write to thank you very much for your hospitality when I visited Shireland Collegiate Academy last week. I really enjoyed my visit and am so grateful for the time and trouble taken to help me see what makes the Academy 'tick'. It was good to meet the senior team and to talk about different aspects of how you have brought about such improvement.

I recall that when I wrote to congratulate you in January of this year on no longer requiring special measures, I described the progress made as impressive and remarkable. Now that I have seen first hand some of the improvements you have brought about, I am clear that what you and the staff team have achieved in such a short time is dramatic. The transformation is nothing short of exceptional and I must reiterate my congratulations to you all.

At the heart of this rapid improvement is your outstanding leadership which has driven, and continues to drive, a real desire to provide students with the very best teaching and learning opportunities. In this endeavour, it is clear that you are particularly successful, resulting in what I might describe as a powerhouse of learning, both for students and staff, where every child matters very much.

In talking with staff, it was clear just how important technology has been in developing provision and promoting achievement. I was particularly impressed with its impact on partnership with parents and carers, and other agencies and how the learning platform is used to develop active and independent learning. Shireland is a clear example of 'best practice' in using technology as a teaching tool and I can see clearly how students' achievements are enhanced by it.

My discussions with staff and observations of the school in action showed me how much importance you have placed in gaining consistency in whole-school practices, such as core skills, assessment, behaviour and making use of the students' voice.

December's inspection report commented on the 'almost obsessive desire' of staff to improve teaching and learning; that desire was palpable as I listened to the strategies for raising achievement described by colleagues.

I left Shireland inspired by what I had seen and heard, and most impressed by your clear vision and capacity to lead the staff team to achieve that vision. The Academy is indeed fortunate in having the benefit of your outstanding leadership. Thank you for all that you do for your students, and for making my visit so memorable.

With my best wishes

Christine

Christine Gilbert

Impressive and remarkable

Ofsted Outstanding 2010|2011

For more information visit our website www.collegiateacademy.org.uk

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Executive Principal: Sir Mark Grundy
George Salter Collegiate Academy Principal: Mr Mick Green
Shireland Collegiate Academy Principal: Sir Mark Grundy

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Alice in Wonderland Performance

2011 sees the year the Arts Faculty at Shireland Collegiate Academy put on their biggest performance to date. A contemporary version of Alice in Wonderland has been written and will be performed in a circus style marquee on the Academy playing fields.

Evening performances will be on Thursday 30 June and Friday 1 July. On Saturday 2 July there will be an amazing event; "Alice's Fun Wonderland Fête". This is for all the family with stalls, free rides, live music, refreshments, stilt walker, fire service, face painting, art activities and much, much more.

Evening Performances

Thursday 30 June
Friday 1 July
Saturday 2 July

Dance rehearsals

Judging the Art competition

Band rehearsals

The Alice Experience Rehearsals
The 'Alice Experience' rehearsals are well underway, with students having spent 3 intensive days working on the performance this half term. The 3 days culminated in the first ever full run through of the show which was very exciting to watch. Many of the key cast members have already learnt all of their lines, the dances are all choreographed and music is sounding fantastic! Even at this stage we can see that this show is going to be amazing!

The show is an original version of the story which has been scripted by Shireland staff. All of the dance material is original and the performance includes several musical numbers that have been composed by the students themselves. We have an exceptionally talented cast of dancers, actors, musicians and singers who are working extremely hard in all rehearsals to develop what promises to be an outstanding performance. Well done to all the students and staff involved in this production!

The Art Department are working with students on the production of props, costumes and marketing.

Alice Art Competition

All the entries for the Alice Art Competition have been judged and the winners are as follows:

Key Stage 3

1st prize - Gurpreet Kaur Gill Year 7
2nd Prize - Mishca James Year 7
3rd Prize - Taha Mulla Year 7

Key Stage 4

1st prize - Amanjot Dosanjh Year 10
2nd Prize - Sonia Dari Year 9
3rd Prize - Diana Agbonlahor Year 9

Staff

1st Prize - Mrs A Joyce (Food Dept)
2nd Prize - Mr L Beard (Science Dept)

Alice's Fun Wonderland Fête

Saturday 2 July at 11.00am

The Saturday show will be combined with a fantastic carnival event for all the family. We hope to see you there.

George Salter - In the Top Four Again!

George Salter Collegiate Academy has gained national recognition for its work adding value to students' achievements at GCSE at a celebratory event on 16 March 2011 in central London.

GSCA was ranked fourth in the country for adding value at 5 A*-C GCSE grades, and the special award, presented to the Head of Post 16, Mrs Beryl Curtis, recognised in the words of the SSAT Chief Executive '.. the commitment and hard work of teachers and students at GSCA. It demonstrates the power of high expectations, good teaching and the ambition for every young person to get the qualifications they need to have the best possible choices of career or education in later life, showing how inspiring teaching can lift the aspirations of young people and open their minds to a world of possibilities. That is what everyone in the education system aims to achieve.'

"What everyone in the education system aims to achieve"

Cast of Our House Musical

MARCH MADNESS

The end of the Spring term saw the annual whole-school production 'Madness' The Musical', at George Salter. Building on the successes of previous years' productions, Tim Firth's 'Our House' story was staged over five sell-out performances, including for the first time a Matinee performance and told the story of Joe Casey, a young man on the verge of adulthood and the decisions he must make after breaking into a building site to try and impress the girl of his dreams on their first date. When the police arrive, Joe's character faces two life choices - 'Good Joe', who stays and takes the consequences, and Bad Joe' who flees the scene.

OUR HOUSE
The Madness Musical

Staging the performance really began in July 2010, when the students were given the opportunity to vote on the show they wanted. Auditions took place in October with rehearsals starting soon after - an interesting journey from page to stage, which discovered many hidden talents along the way. It asked big things of very young, inexperienced performers, who certainly did not disappoint. Together with the leadership of older students and the support and hard work of the students and staff working behind the scenes, the show was a resounding success. For those old enough, the show brought back memories of school discos, and for those younger ones, the iconic music sparked another generation of Madness fans. Well done to all!

A VERY PUBLIC EXHIBITION

On Monday 9 May 2011 George Salter Collegiate Academy, creating partnerships with other schools, hosted an art exhibition at 'The Public' in West Bromwich. The six other schools showcasing their work alongside GSCA were Shireland Collegiate Academy, Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy, Heathfields Foundation Technology College, Phoenix Collegiate Academy, Stuart Bathurst RC High School, and Wood Green High School College of Sports, Maths and Computing. The work on display was a mix of 'A' Level art work including large scale paintings, photography, ceramic sculpture and installations, prefaced by performances from Dance, Drama and Music. Students, Governors, staff and special guests from the local area were in attendance and next year we hope for even more schools to participate. Head of Art at GSCA, Miss Leanne Watton said, 'It was a really fantastic night which showcased the talent of students in the Sandwell area...' This followed an equally successful evening in November 2010, where students from years 7, 8 and 9 staged an exhibition of their artwork, with every single student exhibiting! Both evenings attracted over 600 visitors, and were complemented by works from Performing Arts students.

Mick Green, George Salter Principal, said,'Not only does this give us a chance to work together and display the excellence of the students at seven schools, but also symbolises the positive and talented side of Sandwell youth which all too often goes unnoticed'.

CREATE AND INNOVATE

This production was only one of many creative and innovative events by staff and students at George Salter. Since January 2011 alone there has been a Film Night, again at The Public; three BTEC performances; a Creative Arts Morning for Year 7 students and their parents; a Dance workshop with Dudley Performing Arts; Art residentials at Edgmond Hall and The Eden Project in Cornwall; Performing Arts Workshops for Years 5 and 6, Community Project Performances with students who attend Saturday School and performances for local community groups including local churches and the YMCA.

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Community Activities

Bringing Albanian Community Integration

ILIRIA was founded as a response to the great need of the growing Albanian community in Birmingham and surrounding areas. Through the range of services that they provide, they endeavor to offer Albanians in the West Midlands the support that they need. Their approach is holistic and welcomes everyone that wishes to work alongside them either as a potential Board member, employee, volunteer or service user. The group now meets on a Saturday morning at Shireland Collegiate Academy.

The services on offer are of a broad nature, including assistance in day- to- day UK living with matters such as employment, benefits, education and more. Their aim is to provide Albanians of all backgrounds and all ages, across the generations, with the freedom and opportunity to express and practise their unique and beautiful culture whilst simultaneously integrating well into society in the UK. The group want to mobilise the community to become active participants in ensuring the Albanian culture and heritage is preserved and passed to the young generations here in UK..

No Punches Pulled By Dave

Muscle man 'Big' Dave pulled no punches as he delivered a tough anti-bullying message to school children in Smethwick, dragging a 35 tonne fire engine along to get his point across. Mr Gauder, aged 39, showed off his strength to around 250 children by pulling the engine 30 feet at The Public. Mr Gauder, who is the only man to ever have pulled Concorde, has been involved in anti-bullying campaigns for the past 10 years.

He told the children at the event he pulled the fire engine to prove to the youngsters that his strength in body is just as strong as their strength in mind. After the engine pull the children took part in the workshops which all had an anti-bullying theme.

Mr Gauder also launched the 'Big Dave's World' website where schools and youth groups can share their experiences of bullying through their personalised pages with others across the UK. Children from Shireland Collegiate Academy, St Philip's Primary School and Victoria Park Primary School, also made masks and designed comic books on the day.

Dave Gauder takes the strain, watched by hundreds of school children.

When Do The Examinations Start?

GCSE examinations take place between 16 May and 28 June 2011. There are no examinations during the week of the bank holiday when schools are normally on half term break. In 2011 this will be the week beginning Monday 30 May and examinations will resume on 6 June. Go to the Family Portal to see the full examination timetable.

Basketball Tops

Y11 members of the Basketball Team, with Sports Teacher, A Lewis, Head of Year, D Howe and Pastoral Manager, R Cheema

Congratulations to the KS4 basketball team who beat Q3 Academy in the 'Sandwell Cup Final' We should be very proud of these students whose attitude, behaviour and performances have been outstanding throughout the competition.

The team members are:- Lovejoy Mafini (captain), Tre-Maine Manning, Daine Richards, Akeil Hamilton, Jordan Popo, Kosa Mazlum, Karolis Senavaitis, Immanuel Gardner and Musa Mohammed.